

## INTRODUCTION.

---

IN this Volume twenty-two groups of Rhynchophora, all belonging to the Subfamily Curculioninæ, the Sitonina to the Cryptorrhynchina inclusive, are dealt with. The classification adopted is mainly that of Lacordaire, modified to some extent to conform with the system followed by Leconte and Horn, who were the first to detect the real structural differences between the Otiorrhynchinæ and the Curculioninæ proper. The 'Munich Catalogue' gives but little idea of the vast number of Rhynchophora, especially as regards the group Cryptorrhynchina, inhabiting Tropical America, and it will already be seen that they are probably more than twice as numerous in species as the Phytophaga in this region. Gemminger and Harold (1871-6) give, for the whole world, Rhynchophora [Curculionidæ, Anthribidæ, Brenthidæ, and Scolytidæ] 11,591 species, and for the Phytophaga [Chrysomelidæ, Hispidæ, and Cassididæ] 10,196 species. In this Volume alone, one of four or five that will be required, no fewer than 1365 species are enumerated; whereas the total number of Central-American Phytophaga (inclusive of Hispidæ and Cassididæ) as given in this work (1892-4) is 2619. In Schönherr's 'Genera et Species Curculionidum,' concluded in 1845, scarcely any species are recorded from Central America proper, *i. e.* from between Mexico and the South-American mainland, and it is therefore not surprising that a very large proportion of the species enumerated are new. A few of those described, however, will no doubt prove to be synonymous with South-American forms when the types can be compared. The identification of closely allied obscure species from description alone, from specimens from such distant localities as Mexico and Brazil respectively, is obviously so uncertain that it is preferable to describe such forms as new, notwithstanding the risk of adding to the synonymy. The genera of the group Cryptorrhynchina still remain in inextricable confusion, and little more has been done