

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE present Volume, the third of this series devoted to the Rhynchophora, contains the enumeration of the species of four more groups of the subfamily Curculioninæ, viz. the Zygotina, Tachygonina, Ceuthorrhynchina, and Barina. The last-mentioned group, with which are incorporated the Ambatides, Péridinétides, and Pantotélides of Lacordaire, includes such a large number of forms that it has been considered advisable to deal with the numerous Cossonids, Calandrids, &c. in a separate volume.

The Zygotina abound in the forest-regions of Tropical America, but few species occurring north of Mexico, and the group is wholly wanting in the European fauna. It is, however, well represented in the warmer parts of the Old World. The Tropical-American genus *Cratosomus*, which includes the largest known members of the group, is characteristic of the Mexican weevil-fauna. *Piazurus*, *Zygops*, *Copturus*, *Lechriops*, &c. are remarkable from their habit of resting motionless in the hot sun on the bark of felled or decaying trees, after the manner of certain Buprestids, a fact noticed in the introductory remarks to the group. Nothing appears to have been recorded of the earlier stages of these insects.

The Tachygonina are nearly all American, and, like the Zygotina, become more numerous southward, though the number of known species is small. They are easily recognizable by their powerful and greatly elongated hind legs, which, however, are not used for jumping purposes, but for grasping the edges of leaves.

The Ceuthorrhynchina are characteristic of the north temperate portions of both hemispheres, though much more numerous in species in the Palæarctic than in the Nearctic region. They become very rare southward, doubtless, at any rate in the case