

*Epilachnæ* have been conservative, but in the evolution of their structure also, as they belong to a plain generalized type, perhaps best adapted for living under varying conditions with very little modification; and, like the genus *Stenotarsus*, *Epilachna* is distributed in almost every part of the world, below the sixty-fifth parallel of North latitude. It is well known how this genus predominates in the Eastern hemisphere, and how the species there are so little differentiated that it is very difficult to distinguish or classify them.

The higher forms of the family, from their black-and-red-spotted bodies, and from having to seek their aphidean food on the surface of plants, must be peculiarly attractive to their enemies. This brilliant livery seems retained and even developed from their ancestry; but it is compensated for by two very important facts—(1) a secretion, distasteful, as it seems, to birds, or lizards and other reptiles; (2) a high power of contractility, enabling them to drop on the slightest alarm. It is for this last-mentioned purpose that the fossæ, so usual on the basal segment of the abdomen, seem to have been produced, the rudiments of which (now of no use) are visible in the *Erotylides* and *Languriides*; and though these rudiments are rarely seen in the *Endomychidæ*, it is a significant fact that in the genus *Panomæa*, which so remarkably mimics various *Coccinellidæ*, as nearly always to be taken for one even by Coleopterists, the structure is retained, as well as the round and convex form and the type of marking.

An immense amount of material has passed through my hands during the publication of this volume, and I may especially call attention to the vast number of specimens due to Mr. G. C. Champion's careful collecting, especially in the small and obscure species usually neglected.

There still remain a considerable number of minute and obscure insects unclassified, some of which, without doubt, pertain to the group here treated, but it was thought better to close the work. Many specimens of the genus *Hapalips* (*Languriides*) were unfortunately mislaid, and cannot now be included, but must be described or noticed elsewhere. It is obvious, however, that every collection of any extent will for some time to come contain new species.

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