

# INTRODUCTION.

---

THIS Volume includes an enumeration of the species of fifteen Families of Hymenoptera: four of the section Sessiliventria—Tenthredinidæ, Cephidæ, Siricidæ, and Oryssidæ; and eleven of Petioliventria—Cynipidæ, Figitidæ, Chalcididæ, Ichneumonidæ, Braconidæ, Stephanidæ, Evaniidæ, Trigonalidæ, Pelecinidæ, Proctotrupidæ, and Chrysididæ. It was commenced by Mr. Cameron in 1883, and concluded in 1888, a brief supplement containing a list of the species described or recorded by him elsewhere from Central America having been added last year. The material examined was mostly from Guatemala or the State of Panama, but little from Mexico having been received by us at that time; hence very few of the numerous Mexican forms of Ichneumonidæ, &c., described by North-American writers were represented in our collection. Since then Mr. H. H. Smith has obtained for us a vast number of specimens from Mexico of nearly all the above-mentioned Families; it is, however, quite impossible for us to deal with this immense amount of additional material now, which would necessitate a fresh study of the entire subject and a revision of the whole work. We are therefore reluctantly compelled to close this Volume as it stands, and trust that Mr. Cameron's "Contribution," incomplete as it must be as regards the total number of species inhabiting the region under investigation, has added considerably to our knowledge of these interesting insects.

Altogether 1109 species are enumerated, of which 596 are treated as new, the total number for each Family being as follows:—Tenthredinidæ, 152, with eighty-three new; Cephidæ, one; Siricidæ, three, with one new; Oryssidæ, two, with one new; Cynipidæ, fifteen, with six new; Figitidæ, five, with three new, and two new genera; Chalcididæ, 121, with seventy-one new, and eleven new genera; Ichneumonidæ, 533, with 209 new, and three new genera; Braconidæ, 176, with 157 new, and four new genera; Stephanidæ, five, with three new; Evaniidæ, twenty-three, with sixteen new; Trigonalidæ, nine; Pelecinidæ, two; Proctotrupidæ, forty-three, with thirty-five new; Chrysididæ, nineteen, with eleven new, and one new genus.

ED.

*August 1900.*