

In this and the following families I have had figured by Mr. William Chaffers the male genital organs wherever these exhibit any specific distinctions; for it must be recollected that they do not vary to the same extent in all families. When they do differ their form affords most valuable aid in discriminating the species; and in my opinion they should be figured whenever possible. In the various families the male organs vary exceedingly, to such an extent that in some of them it is not easy at first to trace the homologous parts.

For taxonomical purposes we may distinguish three distinct parts:—

1. The basal piece, or *cardo*. This does not show much variety in form, though not always of the same length or breadth.

2. The forceps, or *stipes*. This is the outer piece, and shows very great variation in form and clothing. It divides itself into three, or in some cases four, parts:—

*a.* The branch, which is the outermost portion, and, as often as not, bears hairs or bristles. It is sometimes one-, sometimes two-jointed, the second joint being formed by the separation of the top from the basal part; and usually takes the form of a palpiform articulation, to which the name of *lacinia* has been given.

*b.* The  *volsella*, which is in most families a very characteristic piece. It is sometimes broad, flat and lobe-like, sometimes cylindrical.

*c.* The *tentaculum*, or pincers of Dufour. This is not invariably present. When it is, it assumes different forms—round, broad, or palpiform; and the apex sometimes ends in a spoon-shaped process, surrounded with hairs, and sometimes terminates in a beak or hook.

3. The *sagittæ*, or *hamuli*; the “*baquettes cornées*” of Dufour. These are the central pair of organs, and have the penis placed between them; but the latter can seldom be observed. The *sagitta*, like the other parts, has a particular form in the various families, and terminates in teeth or hook-like processes. At its base is a kind of envelope—the *spatha* or “*fourneau de la verge*” of Dufour.

In the *Sphegidæ* the male armature is rather characteristic. The branch of the forceps is stout, flattish, broad or narrow at the base, and becomes narrowed at the top, where it, as a rule, curls over the *sagittæ*. It is but seldom two-jointed, and frequently is pilose at the top, and sometimes at the middle. The *volsella* is characteristic; it is flat and broad, and towards the apical two thirds on the inner side it becomes narrowed from the inner to the outer side into a more or less fine point. The *tentaculum* is narrow, but not cylindrical; it usually reaches near to the top of the *volsella*, and ends in a variably-shaped organ, which, however, generally takes the form of a beak, hook, or spoon-shaped process. The *sagittæ* project above the *volsella*; they are narrow, and terminate in a lobe-like process, which frequently bears a hook.