

INTRODUCTION.

THIS Volume includes the enumeration of the Families *Cæstridæ*, *Muscidæ*, and *Hippoboscidæ*, the whole of which has been contributed by Van der Wulp, most of the material having been collected by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith, in Mexico, in 1888-89. Unfortunately, the author did not live long enough to complete his task, the *Agromyzinæ*, *Borborinæ*, *Chloropsinæ*, *Drosophilinæ*, *Ephydrinæ*, *Geomyzinæ*, and *Sapromyzinæ*, of the "Muscidæ Acalypteræ," the Families *Phoridæ* and *Nycteribiidæ* (the last-mentioned being unrepresented in our collection), and the *Aphaniptera*, still remaining undone at the time of his death, on November 27th, 1899. The Group *Trypetinæ*, of the "Muscidæ Acalypteræ," was then in course of publication, and the proof-sheets were passed by him shortly before his decease. As we have not found an Entomologist willing to work out the remainder, it has been considered advisable to close the Volume as it stands, the MSS. of the *Hippoboscidæ* and of the Supplement to the "Muscidæ Calypteræ," with the accompanying drawings, having been in our hands for three years, and brief diagnoses of the new species of *Muscidæ* published in the 'Tijdschrift voor Entomologie' for 1892, pp. 183-195.

At the end of the Volume is appended a list of the species described since 1888 by other authors from Mexico or Central America which have not been noticed by Van der Wulp, as well as a list of the various new genera that have been based upon species originally described in this work. As regards the numerous "Muscidæ Calypteræ" named by Dr. Giglio-Tos, some of them will certainly prove to be synonymous with others previously dealt with by Van der Wulp. Altogether, 1095 species are enumerated, 585 being described as new, with forty new genera.

The thirteen coloured Plates have all been prepared by Mr. Wilson, of Cambridge, from drawings made by the author, who also drew the figures of the *Trypetinæ* reproduced in the text (pp. 424-428).

The Index to the three Volumes of this subject will be inserted at the end of Vol. III., when completed.

ED.

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