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AMERICANA.  
INSECTA. COLEOPTERA,  
VOL. VI, PART 2**

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**J. S. BALY & G. C. CHAMPION**

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BIOLOGIA  
CENTRALI-AMERICANA.

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INSECTA.

COLEOPTERA. VOL. VI. PART 2.

*PHYTOPHAGA* (part).

HISPIDÆ

BY

J. S. BALY,

WITH AN APPENDIX BY G. C. CHAMPION, F.Z.S.

CASSIDIDÆ

BY

G. C. CHAMPION, F.Z.S.

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1885-1894.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THIS volume is devoted to two families of the Phytophagous Coleoptera, the Hispidæ and Cassididæ. The Hispidæ, with the exception of a short appendix, have been wholly dealt with by the late J. S. Baly, the Cassididæ by myself. Baly has already contributed some general remarks upon the Hispidæ, so that, as regards this family, it is necessary to add only some particulars as to the number of genera and species represented within our limits. Altogether, for the two families, 453 species are enumerated, the numbers being almost evenly apportioned—Hispidæ 226, Cassididæ 227. In the Hispidæ 169 new species and two new genera, and in the Cassididæ 55 new species and two new genera, have been described. The total number of species of Hispidæ for the whole world is given as 496 in the Munich Catalogue (1874), and for the Cassididæ 1795. This disproportion in the numbers of the two families, as compared with those for Central America, is, however, partly due to the fact that the Cassididæ have been exhaustively monographed by Boheman (1850–62), while no monograph of the Hispidæ has yet appeared. Nevertheless, Central America contains but a limited number of Cassididæ, as compared with Tropical South America: for example, *Mesomphalia* with 227 species (1874) has nineteen only within our limits; and many other South-American genera are represented by a very small number of species, as *Desmonota*, *Tauroma*, *Dolichotoma*, *Calaspidea*, and *Omoplata*, or are altogether absent, as *Calliaspis*, *Spilophora*, *Canistra*, and *Pacilaspis*. Mexico and Guatemala, however, possess a number of peculiar species of Cassididæ, especially in the genera *Chelymorpha*, *Physonota*, *Coptocyela*, and *Ctenochira*, very few of which reach our northern frontier. Panama or Costa Rica appears to be the northern limit of such genera as *Delocrania*, *Desmonota*, *Calaspidea*, and *Omaspides*. America north of Mexico (Henshaw's Catalogue, 1885) has thirty-five species of Hispidæ and twenty species of Cassididæ (three of which are doubtful)—North America, for some, at present, inexplicable reason, possessing exceedingly few Cassididæ. *Cassida*, the only European genus of the family, and with upwards of 200 species in the Old World, is represented by very few species in North or Central America, it there being replaced by *Coptocyela*.

The majority of the Cassididæ are essentially tropical, and probably more than one half of the described species inhabit Tropical South America. Some genera, as *Physonota*, *Coptocycla*, *Ctenochira*, the eastern *Aspidomorpha*, &c., contain many species which are most brilliantly golden, silvery, or opalescent in life, the metallic colours fading immediately after death. These veritable living gems form a characteristic feature in tropical insect-life.

The Hispidæ are much more retired in their habits than the Cassididæ, and the species, with some few exceptions, are by no means so numerous in individuals, many of them occurring as single specimens on leaves in the forest. Some remarks upon their habits are given by Baly. A large number of undescribed species exist in collections.

G. C. C.

July 1894.

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\* *Amphipalpa guerini* on the Plate.

† *Cephaloleia stenossoma* on the Plate.

‡ *Demotispis limbata* on the Plate.

§ *Cephalodonta generosa* on the Plate.

|| *Chalepus nigripictus* on the Plate.