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Glasgow University: Coleoptera Part II

Robert A. Staig

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IN THE HUNTERIAN COLLECTION AT
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY
COLEOPTERA
PART II

By

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INTRODUCTION

This volume is a further contribution towards a descriptive Catalogue of the Insect Types in the Hunterian Collection at Glasgow University.

As stated in the Introduction to Part I, the special interest and importance of Dr William Hunter's Collection of Insects is due to the fact that many of the specimens are the types of insect species founded by J. C. Fabricius, Antoine G. Olivier, Dru Drury and other early entomologists. Therefore it seemed advisable to publish descriptions together with figures of these valuable types and thus make them more accessible for purposes of systematic entomology.

The usefulness of such work has been questioned by one authority, mainly on the ground of defective examples; it has, however, been appreciated by others, notably and in a very understanding way by Dr Walther Horn, Director of the Institute of Entomology, Berlin. He emphasized that 'it is more important to give good descriptions and serviceable illustrations for the future than to continue for ever keeping the historical things sacred and thereby to a great extent "bolting the door" against Science'.

Whatever view may be held as to the value of this publication, it has apparently proved serviceable to specialists, judging from the interest shown in the first published part; it has made known to them the whereabouts of several types and the descriptions of these have helped them to clear up points at issue and settle questions of identity to their satisfaction.

It is a pleasant duty to acknowledge especial indebtedness and express my thanks to the *Carnegie Trustees* for again awarding a special grant towards the cost of production, and to the *Publications Standing Committee of Glasgow University* for similar substantial assistance as formerly to ensure the publication of this second volume.

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INTRODUCTION

I also desire to thank Professor Edward Hindle for his promotive approbation of this Catalogue, initiated by his predecessor in the Chair, Emeritus Professor Sir John Graham Kerr, to whom I feel grateful for his continued interest.

The types of Coleoptera herein described (under their *modern* names and in the order adopted in Junk and Schenkl's *Coleopterorum Catalogus*) are those of species belonging to the Families *Endomychidae*, *Coccinellidae*, *Helodidae*, *Buprestidae*, *Elateridae*, *Tenebrionidae*, *Oedemeridae*, *Rhipiphoridae*, *Meloidae* and *Pyrochroidae*; and, as previously mentioned, the descriptions are necessarily limited to those features or characters which I have been able to make out satisfactorily, many of the types being in a more or less defective state with age.

With reference to *Carabus unicolor* Fab., *Carabus pallipes* Fab. and *Scarabaeus fricator* Fab., which are described in Part I, supplementary notes on these are included at the end of this volume. By their helpful interest and special knowledge, Professor Edwin C. van Dyke and Dr Henry C. Fall have enabled me to reach a more definite conclusion as to the identity of the first and second above-mentioned insects. The references and synonyms of several of the types described in Part I have been revised according to the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* (Junk and Schenkl), and these revisions are also included in the supplement.

I have again been fortunate in having the assistance of Miss Margaret Rankin Wilson, D.A. (G.S.A.). Her drawings are admirable portrayals, revealing her sound sense of colour and her skill in rendering the subtle shades of these insects. I am much indebted to her for her constant interest and careful, painstaking work.

ROBERT A. STAIG

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November, 1939