

NOTES ON THE ARCHITECTURE, NESTING-HABITS, AND
LIFE-HISTORIES OF AUSTRALIAN ARANEIDÆ, BASED
ON SPECIMENS IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

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PART II.—THE CRIBELLATÆ.

SIMON, in his work, "Histoire Naturelle des Araignées" (second edition), divides Spiders into two sub-orders, namely, *Aranæ theraphosæ* and *Aranæ veræ*. Of these, the former was dealt with in my last paper. The latter, which now claims our attention, is again divided into two sections—*Cribellatæ* and *Ecribellatæ*; these terms signifying that those of the first section have what is known technically as a *cribellum* and *calamistrum*, whilst those constituting the second section are not so provided.

All the Spiders of the sub-order under consideration may be distinguished from the *Territelariæ* by their falces, which, instead of being strongly porrected, as in the *Aranæ theraphosæ*, are directed vertically or obliquely from their base; moreover, their fangs strike sideways, the falces moving in a horizontal or oblique direction, whilst those of the *Trap-door Spiders* are directed downwards, and move vertically parallel to one another.

The *Aranæ veræ cribellatæ* are divided into eight families, namely: *Hypochilidæ*, *Uloboridæ*, *Psechridæ*, *Zoropidæ*, *Dictynidæ*, *Ecobiidæ*, *Eresidæ*, and *Filistatidæ*; and of these the second, fifth, and eighth are represented in Australia.

The *cribellum* is an additional silk-spinning organ, and is situated between and at the base of the first pair of spinners; it consists of a slightly elevated, transverse plate, divided above into two parts, but united at the base throughout their entire length. These parts consist of a single joint each, the apices of which are truncated, compressed, and concave. The surfaces of these joints are minutely and numerously punctured, and emit a quantity of fine, flocculent silk, which is used in the construction of webs.

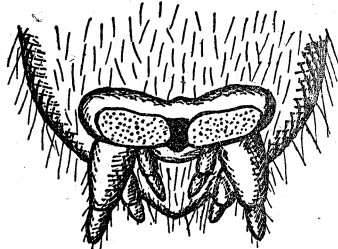


Fig. 15.—The Cribellum.