

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

By W. J. RAINBOW, F.L.S., Entomologist.

(Figs. 24 - 27).

PART III.—THE ECRIBELLATÆ: Haplogynæ.

THE Ecribellatæ have been divided into two sub-sections or groups, viz., the Haplogynæ and Entelegynæ, and of these the former contains six families: Sicariidæ, Leptonetidæ, Oonopidæ, Hadrotarsidæ, Dysderidæ, and Caponiidæ. In Australia, the Haplogynæ are represented by the first, third, fourth, and fifth families here enumerated. None of these spiders is provided with a *cribellum* or *calamistrum*, and the majority have only six eyes. In external appearance, and simplicity, their sexual organs closely approach the Theraphosæ. The genital orifice is situated in both sexes in the epigastric fold, between the pulmonary sacs, and is a simple transverse slit. In the male the last joint of the maxillary palpi is more or less cylindrical, and slightly modified in form, and differs but little in general appearance from that of the female; the copulatory organ consists of a cylindrical or globose lobe, with a more or less prolonged extension, and this may be either straight, curved, or twisted, and acts as the conductor of the styli, the orifice of which is situated at the tip.

FAMILY SICARIIDÆ.

This family is divided by Simon into six sub-families, only one of which—*Scytodinæ*—is represented in Australia. One genus only, *Scytodes*, Latr., is associated by E. Simon with this sub-family, and its geographical range is given as:—"Europa et Regio mediterranea; ins. Atlanticæ; Africa tropica et austr.; ins. Madagascar; Acia occid., centr., orient et merid.; Malaisia et Polynesia; America septr., centr., merid. et antillana."<sup>1</sup>

Three species of this genus are known to me as occurring in Australia, viz., *Scytodes marmorata*, L. Koch, originally recorded from Upolu and Rarotonga; and *S. striatipes*, L. Koch, originally recorded from Upolu, Tonga, and Viti Islands; the third species is apparently *S. thoracica*, Walck., a well-known European form.

<sup>1</sup> Simon—Hist. Nat. Araignées, 2nd edit., i., 1892, p. 276.