

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

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(Plates lxii.-lxiv.; Figs. 13-15.)

PART VII.—ENTELEGYNÆ (*Continued*).

Family ARGIOPIDÆ (=EPEIRIDÆ, *Auct.*).

Sub-family ARGIOPINÆ.

This sub-family is not only the largest of the family of which it forms part, but contains some of the commonest, and most familiar of all spiders. It is the sedentary, orb-weaving species that are the first to attract the attention of the casual observer or amateur collector. The reason for this is obvious, for not only are many of the species large and more or less striking in appearance but, with the exception of a few aberrant forms, construct orbicular webs in prominent situations. Missionaries and travellers in out-of-the-way places, who are good enough to think of museums or arachnological students, when making collections, invariably "bag" large numbers of Argiopidæ—often duplicating a species many times over—and little of aught else. In fact, so numerous are arboreal spiders in such collections, that one is often inclined to think that amateur collectors ignored the fact that there were such things as ground-roving species.

In Australia, the Argiopinæ are represented by the following groups: Argiopeæ, Cyrtophoreæ, Arachnureæ, Cycloseæ, Mangoreæ, Araneæ, Cærostreaæ, Gasteracanthææ, Anepsieæ, Cyrtarachneæ, Glyptocranieæ, Poltyeæ, Celæniæ, Arcyeæ, Dolophoneæ, and Anapeæ.

The spiders included in the first of these groups are easily distinguished. The cephalothorax is very flat, rarely longer than broad; *pars cephalica* is truncated in front, relatively short and straight, and has the segmental grooves well-defined laterally, but indistinct or effaced posteriorly; *pars thoracica* is rounded laterally, the radial and median transverse grooves are distinct;