

STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN ARANEIDÆ.

No. 3.

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(Plate xlv. ; text figs. 40, 41 and 42).

Family HYPOCHILIDÆ.

Genus ECTATOSTICA, Simon.

The occurrence of this family and genus in the Australian region furnishes another interesting example in connection with our terrestrial fauna. The family is a very small one, comprising, so far as is known, only two genera, of which the above named is one, and *Hypochilus*, Marx, the other. Of these genera, the first contains two species, one of which (*E. davidi*, Simon) occurs in China, and the other (*E. troglodytes*, Higg. and Pett.) in Tasmania. Simon has briefly described an immature form, *E. australis*<sup>1</sup>, also from Tasmania, but this is, I doubt not, synonymous with the species described by Higgins and Petterd as *Theridion troglodytes*<sup>2</sup>. *Hypochilus* is a North American genus, and *H. thorelli*, Marx, the type.

The genus *Hypochilus* was founded by Marx<sup>3</sup> in 1888, and was included by that author in the family Pholcidae; but in the following year Hypochilidæ was erected for its reception,<sup>4</sup> Marx pointing out in two interesting papers, the importance of the structural characters of *Hypochilus* in the classification of the Araneidæ.

The interesting feature in connection with the Hypochilidæ is the presence of *four* pulmonary sacs similar to the Theraphosid group.

Simon had not, apparently, seen the "Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania" for 1883, and even if he had it is questionable whether he would have detected in the form described by him in 1902, any affinity with that described by Higgins and Petterd in 1883. Indeed, it would have been surprising if he had, for the description of *Theridion troglodytes*

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<sup>1</sup> Simon—Bull. Ent. Soc. France, 1902, p. 240.

<sup>2</sup> Higgins and Petterd—Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas., 1883, p. 191.

<sup>3</sup> Marx—Entom. Amer., iv., 1888, No. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Marx—Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington, i., 1889, pp. 166, 167 and 178, 179.