

same time makes the whole of Latreille's *Diploptera* intervene between them and the *Mutillidæ*. I am prepared with Mr. Haliday to consider them as constituting a family, but certainly not to be united at present with the Ants, nor yet can they be incorporated with the tribe *Mutillidæ*, miscalled a family, which distinctly contains several natural families, but they are a connecting link between the two. In favour of my opinion of their being as intimately allied to the *Mutillidæ* as to the Ants, I may in the first place adduce the *argumentum ad verecundiam*,—the opinions of some celebrated entomologists,—of Linnæus, Fabricius, and Latreille. It is true, Linnæus first placed the insect, which for several years singly constituted the genus *Dorylus*, in the genus *Vespa*\*, but he immediately afterwards transferred it to *Mutilla*†, with this note however—"Singularis species, forte hujus generis." The first time that Fabricius notices it is in his *Mantissa*‡, for he does not mention it in his two preceding works, and there he says, "Hujus generis videtur, quamvis habitus differt, nondum rite examinata. Potius forte ad *Tiphias* pertinet:" and in his next work, the *Entomol. Systemat.*, he constructs for it the genus *Dorylus*, and very truly says, "Genus singulare, instrumentis cibariis, mandibulis exceptis, minutissimis, attamen distinctis:" and he here places the genus between the last of his genera of Ants and the genus *Mutilla*, and subsequently made no alteration in it except by the addition of two species, the claims of which will be examined below. Latreille invariably throughout all his works placed it with the *Mutillidæ*, and we may conclude from this that his views never vacillated regarding its position; for although his works present a gradual and progressive alteration as to the grouping of insects—not always for the better—yet in this instance he was uniformly the same; and swayed doubtlessly by his observation in his 'Genera Crustaceor. §,' where he says of the two genera, of which he had there formed a distinct section of the family, "*Labidorum* et *Dorylorum* œconomia latet, et masculi tantum noti; feminæ forsan apteræ et solitariæ degentes. Si, ut formicariæ, societates inirent, frequentius quam masculi colligerentur." But he here places them in close approximation to the genus *Formica*. Jurine, although the founder of the genus *Labidus*, can scarcely be adduced as an authority for systematic distribution; yet he also places them in close approach to the Ants, but before *Cynips*, and puts the genus *Labidus* in juxtaposition with *Dorylus*, of which no doubt was ever enter-

\* Museum, Ludov. Ulric. Regin. p. 412.

† System. Nat. ii. 967.

‡ Tom. i. p. 313. 18. 1787.

§ Genera Crust. et Insect. p. 124. Annotatio.