

KEY TO SUBFAMILIES OF ADULT CRYPTOPHAGIDAE

- 1. Front coxal cavities nearly closed behind, elytra truncate, leaving tip of abdomen exposed; tarsal segment 1 much shorter than 2, very small species of Holarctic region HYPOCOPRINAE

- 1' Front coxal cavities widely open behind, elytra not truncate, completely covering abdomen, tarsal segment 1 about as long as 2.... 2

- 2(1') Head never with distinct fronto-clypeal suture; antennal insertions usually widely separated, male tarsi usually 5-5-4, aedeagus with articulated parameres, meso-metasternal junction often with double metasternal knob 3

- 2' Head with distinct front-clypeal suture, antennal insertions usually closely approximated, tarsal formula 5-5-5 (rarely 4-4-4) in both sexes, aedeagus without articulated parameres; meso-metasternal junction never with double metasternal knob; abdomen usually with 5 pairs of functional spiracles; at least some thoracic and abdominal sternites with tubular glandular openings ATOMARIINAE

- 3(2) Exposed part of front coxae small and rounded, scarcely longer than width of prosternal process; male hind tarsi 5-segmented, eyes reduced, very small, wingless species, of elongate and depressed form, meso-metasternal junction never

with double metasternal knob
ALFIERIELLINAE

3' Exposed part of front coxae transverse, distinctly longer than
width of prosternal process, male hind tarsi nearly always
4-segmented, meso-metasternal junction usually with double
metasternal knob CRYPTOPHAGINAE

Subfamily HYPOCOPRINAE Crowson

The subfamily Hypocoprinae (Hypocopridae, Crowson, 1955), includes the single genus Hypocoprus Motschulsky 1839 and is represented by only a few species in the Palaearctic and Nearctic regions. No larva has been described and little is known about the habits of adults beyond the fact that they have been collected under rather dry cowdung on sandy soil, and sometimes in association with ants (Sen Gupta, 1967).

Of all known Cryptophagid genera, this one shows the greatest similarities to Cavognathidae, i.e., in the partially closed front coxal cavities, unusually transverse front coxae, 5-5-5 tarsi of the male, and the curved form of aedeagus, resting on one side when retracted. However, the firmly closed middle coxal cavities and elongated trochanters mark the genus out as Cryptophagid.

Two undescribed specimens of Hypocoprus collected from South India are located at Geneva Natural History Museum, Geneva, Switzerland. The author has not come across any record of the occurrence of the genus in India and has not been able to collect any specimen of the same.