

A Guide to the Ground-beetle Collection in the  
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris  
(Coleoptera: Carabidae)

by

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Introduction

The large and important collections of Carabidae in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris (MNHN) have been and still are very difficult to use. This is due mainly to the retaining of specimens in boxes roughly the size of the commonly known Schmidt Box, rather than the incorporation of specimens into drawers and units, and the random arrangement of these small boxes.

The purpose of this paper is to establish a working guide to these collections to assist our carabidologist colleagues in using the Paris material. This plan is designed to be "modifiable" and it is hoped that major changes in shelf arrangements will be called to our attention so that we can alter and redistribute new editions of this paper.

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#### General Notes

In 1966, a new wing was added to the museum consisting of many new office spaces and a large room with many levels to house the collections. Since that time the general carabid collection has been moved from the attic to clean, spacious, metal shelves with ample lighting, both natural and incandescent. There are some groups usually considered Carabidae not housed with this general collection, as well as some special collections, which are kept separate.

The cicindelinae are housed against one wall in the guest work-room outside Mme. Bons' office. Much of this collection has been worked over by Dr. Rivalier and others and is in fairly good condition, at least curatorily. However, there remains many undetermined cicindelinae mixed in the general carabid collection (see below).

The Rhysodini are still in the attic in the Grouvelle Collection (5 boxes) and there may be others in minor miscellaneous collections.

Other separate or special collections include Jeannel's Trechiini, Anillina, and the Lymnastis-Micratopus specimens which are housed in a locked office two rooms east of Mme. Bons' office. Here also are some South American specimens collected by Gay and Germain as well as a few Merizodini. Outside Mme. Bons' inner office, there are some special collections which house carabids, at least in part, for example, Fleutiaux and Sallé's Guadeloupe

