

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

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(Fig. 3.)

PART V.—**ENTELEGYNÆ** (*continued*).

FAMILY PHOLCIDÆ.

The genus *Pholcus*, Walck., was erected by C. Koch, in 1850, to family rank.¹ Prior to this date, it had been included in the family Theridiidæ. Simon, in his masterly work,² has defined its position, and to this the student is referred.

The family Pholcidæ has since been divided into two sub-families—the Pholcinæ and Ninetidinæ. With the first of these, twenty genera are now associated, of which three occur in Australia; the second embraces only one (*Ninetis*, Sim.), and its habitat is defined as “Arabia felix.”³

The genus *Artema*, Walck., has a wide range, its distribution being: “Africa tota; Arabia; Asia occid., centr. et merid.; Malaisia et Polynesia; America antillana et merid.”⁴ This being so, it is quite possible that it may hereafter be recorded from the Australian region.

The genus *Pholcus*, Walck., is exceedingly ubiquitous, its range being: “Orbis utriusque reg. calid. et temp.”⁵ Only one species—*P. litoralis*, L. K.—is known to me as occurring in Australia. It has been recorded from Rockhampton and Brisbane, and is very common in the neighbourhood of Sydney, where it is known popularly as “Daddy Longlegs.”

The Pholcidæ are of sedentary habits, and are most frequently met with in buildings, where they construct their webs in the angles of walls and ceilings. Their snares are irregularly constructed, the lines comprising them being drawn in every conceivable direction. The Pholcidæ have been formed into a group under the name of Filitèles, from their habit of spinning long filaments of silk whenever or wherever they move. When an insect

¹ C. Koch—Ueb. Ar. Syst., v., 1850, p. 31.

² Simon—Hist. Nat. des Araignées, 2nd Ed., i., 1892, p. 456.

³ Simon—Loc. cit., p. 487.

⁴ Simon—Loc. cit., p. 466.

⁵ Simon—Loc. cit., p. 471.