

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

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(Figs. 53-54).

PART VI.—**ENTELEGYNÆ** (*Continued*).

Family ARGIOPIDÆ (=EPEIRIDÆ, *Auct.*).

Formerly this family was considered as including all and only those species whose snares are geometrical or orbicular. Dr. McCook in his great work¹ adopted this method. Since, however, some species, which cannot under any consideration be regarded as Argiopidæ, fabricate orbicular webs², and some true Argiopids do not, any classification which has for its basic principal the method or style of architecture, must of necessity be artificial and unscientific. This doubtful system of classification, of course, is not by any means new; it was used by the old school of naturalists, and so far as McCook is concerned, is interesting only from the fact that so modern and capable a student still apparently adheres to and even justifies it.

The family is extensive and widely spread, and the species comprising it sedentary. Simon has divided it into four sub-families, viz., Linyphiinæ, Tetragnathinæ, Nephilinæ, and Argiopinæ, and these latter again into numerous groups or sections.

Sub-family, LINYPHIINÆ.

The Linyphiinæ are regarded by some authors as entitled to absolute family rank—Linyphiidæ, but Simon has included them in the Argiopidæ as a sub-family. In doing so, the author quoted, points out that though it is possible to trace a number of constant

¹ McCook—*American Spiders and their Spinning Work*, i., 1889, p. 17.

² Rainbow—*Rec. Aust. Mus.*, iv., 3, 1901, p. 138.