

Eyes large, situated at the back of the head, and resting partly on the pronotum. *Prothorax* transverse, much broader than long, not confluent with the mesothorax. *Mesothorax and metathorax* together cylindrical, coalescent, the boundary between them scarcely distinguishable; no scutellum nor scutellar process.

Elytra and wings always wanting.

Front legs short, rather stout. *Tibia* with a triangular process near the apex. *Tarsus* two-jointed; second joint with claws inserted about the middle.

Middle and hind legs long and slender, inserted at the sides of the posterior end of the thorax; the hind legs inserted above the middle legs. *Middle legs* with *tibia* and first joint of *tarsus* furnished with a fringe of long hairs; *tarsus* two-jointed, the second joint clawed before the tip. *Hind legs* with one-jointed *tarsus* clawed before the tip.

Abdomen very short, first three segments covered above by the metanotum. Apex of the abdomen in the male with a conspicuous rhomboidal appendage.

DETAILS OF STRUCTURE.

Halobates presents a peculiar appearance on account of the great development of the thorax in comparison with the abdomen, thus approaching in facies the larvæ of some other genera of *Hydrobatina*. The body is covered with very short and close pubescence of a grey colour, which is the predominating tint of the species, few of which have any conspicuous markings, at least on the upper surface. In all there are two reddish or yellowish spots at the back of the head, but in most cases these are not conspicuous. Several of the species have pale markings on the under side.

THE HEAD AND ITS APPENDAGES.

The Head viewed from above is shortly triangular; viewed from the side, the vertex is more or less convex, while the frons is sloped very much downwards. The vertex is convex, at least in the middle, but is usually widely but shallowly depressed on each side near the hind margin; while there is another more slight depression before the middle lobe of the face. In the female the latter depression is more conspicuous than in the male. The posterior depressions do not extend so far as the orbits, the inner sides of which are slightly tumid. In the posterior depressions is generally a rufous spot, usually ill-defined and not conspicuous, but forming in a few species a conspicuous, oblique, reddish-yellow mark on each side of the middle of the back of the head. The hind margin between the eyes is convexly rounded, and in one or two species the edge is more or less narrowly elevated. The front of the head is sloped downwards, and is nearly, but