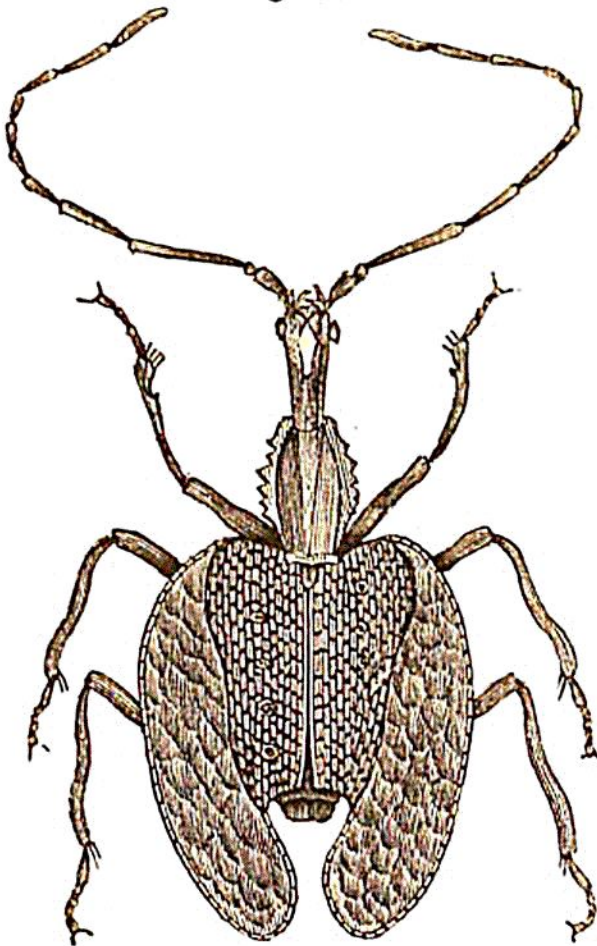


is none more remarkable, both for its numbers, the diversities of form and aspect that it exhibits, and of armour both defensive and offensive, and also of its organs of various kinds, and for various uses, than that of which I am now, in the last place, to give some account, the *beetles*, namely, forming the Order *Coleoptera*.

The parallel to this Order amongst the suctorious insects, appears to be the *Hemiptera* Sub-order, the wing-covers of some of which,* having scarcely any membrane at their extremity, represent the elytra of the Order in question; indeed the substance of the base of these organs, in the generality, also corresponds with that of the beetles.

Fig. 101.



Mormolyce phyllodes.

few instances, on their flesh.

A very considerable number of this Order are *preda-*

* *Lygæus apterus, brevipennis, &c.*

Of all the mandibulate Orders there is none that appears to have so universal an action upon every substance, both vegetable and animal, both living and dead, as the one before us, but it is difficult to class them according to their food without breaking up natural groups; thus in the great tribe of Lamellicorn beetles, forming Linné's genus *Scarabæus*, we find insects that feed upon a great variety of vegetable food, both liquid and solid; green and putrescent; the fœces of animals; and in a