

form, which take their station between the bark and the wood, are instrumental in separating them so as to let in the wet,* and expose the timber more effectually to the action of the elements.

The great majority, indeed, of this interesting Order derive their nutriment, in their first and last states, from the vegetable kingdom. The Lamellicorns afford a conspicuous instance of this. Even those of them that are coprophagous feed upon vegetable detritus in some degree animalized; and some are stated to feed indifferently both on excrement and leaves.† The giants of the Order, the mighty Dynastidans,‡ appear to feed upon putrescent timber, burrowing in it as well as in the earth. The Melolonthidans, in their first state, devour the *roots* of grass, &c., whence one of the modern genera into which they are divided is named the *root-eater*;§ in their perfect state, they emerge from their subterranean dwellings, and attack the *leaves* of trees and shrubs, and are sometimes very injurious to them. Again, there are others, which, as it were, disdaining such coarse food, devour the *blossoms* themselves, whence Latreille calls them *Anthobians*: and lastly, the lovely tribe of Cetoniadans, to which the rose-beetle|| belongs, imbibe the *nectar* of the flowers they frequent.

Many of the weevil tribes are very destructive to stored grain;¶ and others equally so to certain fruits.**

Though the *Hymenoptera* and *Neuroptera* Orders are most celebrated for the *associations* which certain tribes instinctively form, this principle does not act in them

* Introd. to Ent. i. 235, 260.

† Lacordaire, Ann. des Sc. Nat. xx. 260.

§ Rhizotrogus.

¶ Calandra.

‡ Dynastes. M'Leay.

|| Cetonia aurata.

** Cordylia Palmarum.