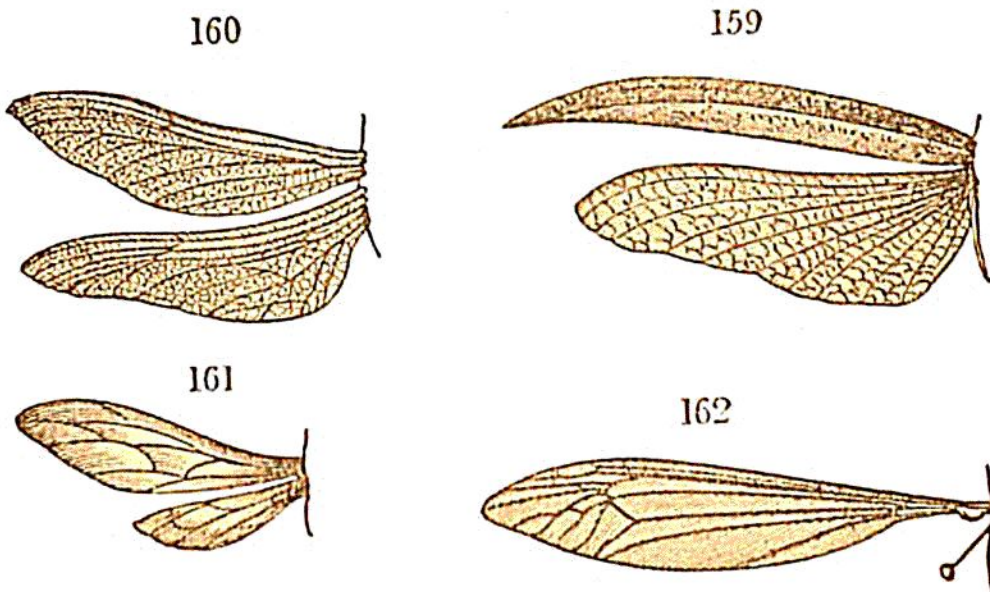


converted into thick, opaque and hard plates, (E,) adapted to cover the folded membranous wings when the insect is not flying, and thus securing them from injurious impressions, to which they might otherwise be exposed from heat, moisture, or the contact of external bodies. These wing-cases, or *elytra*, as they are termed, are never themselves employed as wings, but remain raised and motionless during the flight of the insect. They probably, however, contribute to direct the course of flight, by variously modifying the resistance of the air.*

In the *Orthoptera* (Fig. 159,) the coverings of the wings, or *tegmina*, instead of being of a horny texture, are soft and flexible, or semi-membranous. The wings themselves, being broader than their coverings, are, when not in use, folded longitudinally, like a fan.

In the new Order of Rhipiptera of Latreille,† which includes only two genera, the *tegmina* are anomalous both in



their situation and shape; being fixed at the base of the anterior legs, very long and narrow, and apparently incapable of protecting the wings. The wings themselves are of am-

* The Elytra of insects have been regarded, by Oken, as corresponding to the bivalve shells of the Mollusca, a notion which seems to be founded upon a fanciful and strained analogy.

† The *Strepsiptera* of Kirby. See Transactions of the Linnæan Society, XI. 86.