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BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY;

BEING

ILLUSTRATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

THE GENERA OF INSECTS

FOUND IN

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND:

CONTAINING

COLOURED FIGURES FROM NATURE

OF THE MOST RARE AND BEAUTIFUL SPECIES,

AND IN MANY INSTANCES

OF THE PLANTS UPON WHICH THEY ARE FOUND.

BY JOHN CURTIS, F.L.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY OF OXFORD,
OF THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF FLORENCE,
OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, ETC.

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PRISTOMERUS VULNERATOR.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus Pachymerus vulnerator Grav.*PRISTOMERUS Curt.—*Pachymerus Grav., Curt.—Ichneumon Panz.*

Antennæ shorter than the body, slender, narrowed at the base, pubescent, composed of 32 joints at least, 3rd and following elongated to the middle, where they are oblong, and soon become very short and turbinate, the apical joint being subconic.

Labrum trigonate, cuspidate.

Mandibles bifid, very acute.

Maxillary Palpi composed of 5 nearly equal joints.

Mentum long and narrow. *Palpi* forming 4 short joints.

Head *transverse*: eyes *not very remote, large and subglobose*: ocelli 3, *very large*. Thorax *obovate*: scutel *semiovate*: postscutel *not elongated, with 4 elevated lines*. Abdomen *subfusiform, compressed, falcate and clavate at the apex*: petiole *long, very narrow at the base*: ovipositor *slender, as long as the body*. Wings *ample*: stigma *large, trigonate*; areolet *none*; marginal and discoidal cells *short*. Legs *slender, hinder the longest and stoutest, especially in the males*; their thighs *with a strong spine beneath at the middle, beyond which they are denticulated to the apex in the male only* (8 †).

VULNERATOR Panz., Grav.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 535, 149.

Deep, shining black; middle of abdomen yellow beneath, apex of 2nd and 3rd segments rufous in the male, all of them edged with yellow in the female: trophi and legs ochreous: hinder coxæ, sometimes the trochanters, thighs, excepting their base, apex of tibiæ and tarsi piceous, as well as the stigma and nervures: expanse 6 lines.

MR. SHUCKARD discovered this rare species in Battersea Fields the beginning of last July, when he took several males and two females on the flowers of the garden Parsnep, and by his obliging addition of specimens to my cabinet, I am enabled to give a magnified figure of the male. Its flight is peculiar, resembling that of the Lark.

It has long since been observed in this work, that the trophi cannot be expected to differ much in allied groups, and consequently that they enable us to generalize and form families rather than genera, and this is exemplified in the two species of *Pachymerus*, whose organs of manducation are very similar, yet in other respects they vary so greatly, that they cannot be included in one genus: the structure of the antennæ, the neuuration of the wings, and the dentated hinder thighs in *P. vulnerator* are characters sufficiently strong to justify its separation; I have therefore applied the name of *Pristomerus* to this species, reserving Gravenhorst's *Pachymerus* for that which has the thickest thighs in both sexes, which I shall now describe.

PACHYMERUS Grav.

Antennæ inserted in front of the face, not so long as the body, slender at the base, slightly thickened to the apex, composed of at least 22 joints, the basal ones forming an ovate mass, 3rd elongated, the following decreasing in length, being oblong beyond the middle; pubescent in the male, and each joint producing a bristle on the inside.

Labrum trigonate, anterior margin rounded and ciliated with long hairs, with a membranous strap-shaped lobe in the centre (2).

Mandibles elongate-trigonate, broad and bifid at the apex (3).

Maxilla terminated by 2 large rounded lobes, the outer one ciliated. *Palpi* long, pilose and 5-jointed, basal joint clavate, 2nd longer and stout, the remainder decreasing in bulk, the 4th not longer than the 1st, the terminal one linear (4).

Mentum obconical. *Lip* large and slightly cordate. *Palpi* rather longer than the lip, pilose and 4-jointed, basal joint clavate-truncate, 2nd stout subglobose, the following elongate-ovate (5).

Head short and narrow, base concave; face convex: eyes remote, small and ovate: ocelli 3 in triangle on the crown. Thorax narrow and elongated: scutellum semi-ovate, convex: postscutellum long and narrow, with 4 elevated lines. Abdomen subfusiform, gradually narrowed to the base, the apex compressed and clavate; broader and deeper in the female (6); truncated obliquely with a long groove to receive the short and stout ovipositor which extends about $\frac{1}{4}$ th beyond the apex. Wings ample, superior without an areolet, stigma and marginal cell elongated, the upper discoidal one with a short internal branch (9). Legs very slender, excepting the hinder, which are long and stout: coxæ, posterior long, their thighs thick in both sexes: tibiæ spurred, hinder long and clavate: tarsi long, simple, and 5-jointed, basal joint long, 4th the smallest: claws and pulvilli minute.

Calcitrator Grav.—*Curt. Guide, Gen.* 535. No. 150.

Black, shining; antennæ brown, yellow beneath; apex of the petiole, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th segments rufous, the 2nd generally with a brown patch on the back, the remaining segments edged with white: nervures and stigma brown: legs brown, 4 anterior ochreous, except on the outside; hinder tibiæ sometimes inclining to reddish-brown, especially at the base: expanse $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Not an uncommon insect. I have taken the female at Coomb Wood and in the Isle of Wight the middle of June, and males at Darent and Dover the end of July. Mr. Shuckard finds both sexes on umbellate flowers in Battersea Fields.

The Plant is *Scandix* (*Myrrhis* Scop.) *odorata*, Sweet Cicely found at Knaresborough by J. Walton, Esq.