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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.

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FÆNUS ASSECTOR.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Evaniidæ.

Type of the Genus, Ichneumon Assectator Linn.

FÆNUS *Fab., Lat., Jur., Panz., Curt.*—Gasteruption *Lat.*—Ichneumon *Linn., &c.*

Antennæ inserted in front of the face, as long as the thorax, straight, filiform and velvety; 13-jointed in the male, 14-jointed in the female (1♀), basal joint ovate, a little the stoutest, 2nd the smallest, cup-shaped, 4th a little longer than the 3rd, the remainder decreasing in length to the apical joint which is as long as the 4th and linear-ovate.

Labrum membranous, broad ciliated and deeply notched in the centre, from whence arises a tongue-shaped lobe, hairy towards the apex with a large triangular membrane beneath (2).

Mandibles acute at the apex, oblong, truncated obliquely, one having a very large triangular tooth on the inside (3).

Maxillæ terminated by a large oval pilose lobe, with a narrow ciliated one on the inside. *Palpi* moderately long, slightly pilose and 6-jointed, 3 basal joints the stoutest, oblong, the 3rd being a little longer than the 1st and 2nd; 4th the longest, clavate, 5th and 6th a little shorter, the latter linear-conic (4).

Mentum oblong, narrowed and rounded at the base, the anterior angles truncated, and producing large fleshy scapes to which are attached the *Palpi*, they are rather long pilose and composed of 4 clavate joints, the 3rd a little the shortest, 4th the slenderest, linear-conic. *Lip* strong, shorter than the mentum (5).

Head *subovate or orbicular, attached by an elongated neck.* Eyes *lateral ovate.* Ocelli 3 *in triangle on the crown of the head.* Thorax *narrow and compressed.* Abdomen *very long compressed narrow and clavate, slightly arched and very slender at the base, composed of 8 joints.* Ovipositor *long.* Wings *short, marginal cell large, 2 large submarginal cells and 3 irregular areolets in the centre: inferior with a few very fine nervures.* Legs *rather short.* Coxæ; *posterior large and contiguous; trochanters long.* Thighs; *hinder pair the stoutest.* Tibiæ *short, posterior clavate with a small spine, anterior with a curved one near the apex.* Tarsi *5-jointed, hinder pair the stoutest, basal joint the longest, 4th small.* Claws and Pulvilli *minute (8, fore leg).*

ASSECTOR *Linn. Faun. Suec. 407. 1627.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 483. 2.*

In the Author's and other Cabinets.

THESE remarkable insects are by no means common: I had not seen one alive for many years until last June, when I took

several specimens of the *F. Assectator*, and they reminded me in their flight of the *Ammophila vulgaris*, from the singular manner in which they raised their bodies. The following observations I have copied from Latreille. "They live upon flowers, and often elevate their abdomens in a state of repose: during the night, or when bad weather prevents them from flying, they fix themselves by their mandibles to the stalks of different plants, and are then almost in a perpendicular position. They are often met with in dry and sandy districts, flying with solitary bees and Spheges in order to discover their nests and take possession of them, or to deposit their eggs by the side of those of the above insects, or upon their larvæ, which become their prey. The larvæ undergo their metamorphoses in the same nest where they lived." Linnæus says, on the authority of Bergman, that *I. Jaculator* inhabits the larvæ of *Apis truncorum*, *florisomnis*, and *Sphex Figulus*, examining with its antennæ where the larva is concealed, it flies away, returns, and deposits an egg in it.

1. *F. Jaculator* Linn. *F. S.* 406. 1626.—Panz. 96. 16 ♀.—*Jurinc*, pl. 7. *Gen.* 2. ♀.

Black, slightly glossy: head excessively thickly and minutely punctured, forming fine transverse lines: thorax coarsely punctured and reticulated: abdomen with the 2nd and 3rd joints reddish yellow: ovipositor as long as the rest of the insect: base of 4 anterior tibiæ white; posterior with a white ring near the base and another on the 1st joint of their tarsi.

Taken near London and in Norfolk in June.

2. *F. Assectator* Linn.—*Curt. Brit. Ent.* pl. 423. ♀.

Smaller; silky black, head and thorax excessively minutely punctured, the latter also variolose or like the end of a thimble: abdomen with 3 reddish irregular bands on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th segments: ovipositor not half the length of the abdomen: tibiæ with a white ring near the base: tips of the thighs sometimes white.

I took both sexes of this insect towards the end of June, flying about the southern sides of rocks and over sandy places at the back of the Isle of Wight: it has also been taken by Mr. Dale in Devon, and sometimes met with, I believe, near London.

The Plant is *Orchis latifolia* (Marsh Orchis).