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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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HYMENOPTERA, PART I.

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ICHNEUMON ATROPOS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ *Lat., Leach.*

Type of the Genus Ichneumon bidentorius Fab.

ICHNEUMON *Linn., Fab., Lat., Fall., Panz.*

Antennæ inserted between the eyes, in a cavity towards the middle of the face, long and setaceous, composed of 40 joints and upwards, basal joint robust, cylindric, truncated obliquely, 2nd very short, 3rd slender and the longest, the remainder decreasing in length to the apex (1* a).

Labrum transverse oval, a small portion only exerted, anterior margin ciliated, and producing from beneath a fleshy acuminate lobe (2).

Mandibles small, resting transversely, slightly bent and bifid, being notched below the apex (3).

Maxillæ short, terminated by a large oval ciliated lobe and a narrow fleshy one on the internal side. *Palpi* very long and slender, composed of 5 joints nearly of equal length, basal joint clavate, 2nd dilated subsecuriform, 3rd and 4th scarcely clavate, 5th very slender (4).

Mentum short ovate. *Labium* short hollow membranous. *Palpi* rather long slender and pubescent, 4-jointed, 3 first joints nearly of equal size, clavate truncate, 4th much longer and more slender (5).

Head *short, vertical, orbicular.* Eyes *lateral oblong* (1*, head of *I. Atropos* viewed in front). Ocelli 3 in triangle. Prothorax short and small, metathorax cancellated. Scutellum rounded, sometimes gibbous. Abdomen alike in both sexes, oblong-conic or ovate, peduncle short, slender and arcuate. Ovipositor very short and not exerted. Wings with a pentagonal areolet. Legs, anterior the shortest, posterior the longest. Coxæ short and robust. Tibiæ, anterior producing 1 spine at the apex, the others 2. Tarsi long, 5-jointed, basal joint very long and notched internally at the base in the anterior pair, 4th joint small, 5th not longer than the 2nd. Pulvilli distinct. Claws simple (8, a fore leg).

ATROPOS *Nob.*

Black, antennæ with the basal half orange; trophi and margin round the eyes ochreous, top of prothorax, a line before and another beneath each wing ochreous. Scutellum yellow. Abdomen with the 3 first joints rufous. Wings shining, aureous yellow, the posterior margins fuscous, nervures ferruginous. Leg ochreous excepting the coxæ, the apex of the posterior thighs and tibiæ which are black.

Obs. In some specimens the black in the antennæ extends nearer the base, the head and face are more yellow and the metathorax and the coxæ more mottled with ochre.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Davis and Mr. S. Sullivan.

FALLEN states that the true Ichneumons deposit their eggs in larvæ that feed on the leaves of trees, and in pupæ which lie

near the surface of the earth; it appears to me that they prefer naked caterpillars, and probably puncture them after they have descended into the earth, but before they have changed into chrysalides.

The following list of British species belonging to this numerous genus, incomplete as it is, will enable any one to recognize those insects which belong to this particular group; and manuscript names without descriptions would only be an incumbrance, since Professor Gravenhorst is about to publish a Monograph upon the family.

1. *I. nigratorius* *Fab.*—e. June, near Covehithe, Suffolk.
2. *annulator* *Linn.*
3. *comitator* *Linn.*—*Panz.* 71. 14.
4. *nigrator* *Fab.*
5. *narrator* *Fab.*
6. *sputator* *Fab.*—*Panz.* 19. 20.
7. *nigratorius* *Fab.*—e. June, near Covehithe, Suffolk.
8. *molitorius* *Linn.*—*Panz.* 19. 16.
9. *moratorius* *Fab.*
10. *oratorius* *Fab.*—*Panz.* 80. 10.
11. *deliratorius* *Linn.*
12. *pedatorius* *Fab.*—*Panz.* 71. 12.
13. *castigator* *Fab.*
14. *lutorius* *Fab.*—m. July, flying about Sallows at Whittlesea Mere.
15. *pisorius* *Fab.*—*Schæf. El. t.* 12. *f.* 1.
16. *fusorius* *Linn.*
17. *Atropos.* *Curt. Brit. Ent.* 234.
18. *sugillatorius* *Linn.*—*Schæf. Icon. t.* 84. *f.* 9.
19. *infractorius* *Linn.*—*Panz.* 78. 9.
20. *vaginatorius* *Linn.*—*Panz.* 79. 8.—August and September. Umbellate flowers.
21. *ambulatorius* *Fab.*
22. *occisorius* *Fab.*—*Panz.* 78. 10.
23. *negatorius* *Fab.*—*ornatorius.* *Panz.* 73. 15.
24. *fasciatorius* *Fab.*—*nugatorius.* *Panz.* 80. 12.
25. *bidensorius* *Fab.*—*desertorius.* *Panz.* 45. 15.—e. June and b. August.
26. *luctatorius* *Linn.*—*Schæf. Icon. t.* 264. *f.* 6.—m. August, Dover.
27. *similatorius* *Fab.*

I. Atropos has been bred from the caterpillar of *Acherontia Atropos* (*pl.* 147), by Miss Giraud of Faversham, Kent; the specimen figured from Mr. Sullivan's cabinet was taken at Rochester by Professor Henslow; and Mr. Davis took his the end of July in a lane leading to Darent Wood.

For specimens of *Juncus liniger*, With., *Luzula congesta*, Forst. (Flaxen Rush), I am indebted to Mr. Charlwood.