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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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PIMPLA ÆTHIOPS.

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

Type of the Genus Ichneumon manifestator Linn.

PIMPLA *Fab., Lat., Leach., Fallen., Panz.*—Cryptus *Fab.*—Ichneumon *Linn., Fab., Panz.*

Antennæ inserted in the middle of the face, approximating, long, pubescent, subsetaceous in the males, filiform in the females, composed of numerous joints (never transverse); basal joint the most robust, ovate, truncated obliquely, 2nd as long but slender, 3rd very long, 4th much shorter (1), the remainder decreasing in length to the apex, the terminal joint being longer than the foregoing (1b).

Labrum minute concealed beneath the clypeus, horny, ciliated with long hairs, producing a triangular membranous lobe beneath (2).

Mandibles small, robust, subtrigonal, slightly bent, bidentate at the apex (3).

Maxillæ terminated by a rounded pilose lobe, having a smaller fleshy one on the inside. *Palpi* long pubescent, 5-jointed, unequal, 1st and 2nd subclavate, the latter rather longer and more robust, 3rd the longest but slenderer, 4th rather shorter, 5th scarcely longer than the basal joint and very slender (4).

Mentum oblong dilated anteriorly, the angles truncated and receiving the base of the *Palpi*, which are 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints obtrigonal, especially the latter, 3rd and 4th more slender, the former subclavate, the latter subconic. *Lip* placed far behind the mentum, membranous, hollow, deeply and acutely cleft in the centre (5).

Head transverse. Eyes remote. Ocelli large, 3 in triangle. Thorax long ovate, gibbous. Abdomen almost sessile elongated subcylindric, 8-jointed, more linear in the male (7); more robust and truncated at the apex in the female (6); Ovipositor exerted; frequently much longer than the body; the sheath (6a) arising from the superior angle is composed of 2 hollow lobes, externally pubescent and shorter than the Oviduct inserted beneath and formed of a rigid acute and hollow process (b) inclosing 2 other more slender rigid filaments (c) with membranous edges, apparently hollow, lanceolate and striated transversely externally at the apex. Wings with the central submarginal cell small, trigonal or rhomboidal. Legs, anterior short, posterior pair long. Coxæ, posterior very large. Tibiæ spurred at the apex. Tarsi 5-jointed, penultimate joint minute. Claws long and bent. Pulvilli large.

Obs. the dissections are drawn from *I. instigator* *Fab.*

ÆTHIOPS *Nob.*—*corruscator?* *Linn.* not of *Fab.*

Black, shining, minutely punctured, pubescent. *Antennæ* lurid at their tips. Anterior legs with the tibiæ and a stripe down the thighs ochraceous. Tarsi fuscous. Oviduct ferruginous. Wings fuscous transparent.

In the Author's and other Cabinets.

FABRICIUS having drawn his best character for the division of *Pimpla* and *Cryptus* from a sexual distinction (the form of the antennæ), it becomes necessary to have recourse to other parts to establish them as genera. The only difference we shall now point out is the nearly sessile abdomen of *Pimpla*, and the peduncled one of *Cryptus*, a mark which will be found sufficient to separate them.

By this arrangement the genus *Pimpla* will be very much circumscribed; nevertheless it will be sufficiently extensive to admit of the following sections:

I. Ovipositor longer than the body.

* Abdomen slender.

1. *P. persuasorius* Linn.—Don. 15. 522.—Beginning of July; about Pine-trees near Manchester, and in a garden in Norfolk. Mr. Bracy Clark informs me that he took the females upon Pine-trees in Switzerland, and that they were not able to extricate their oviduct from the crevices in the bark where they were inserted.

2. *P. manifestator* Linn.—Panz. 19. 21.—Sam. 8. 4.—*Linnean Transactions* v. 3. tab. 4.

June; upon posts, Norfolk, Kensington Gardens, &c.

3. *P. mediator* Fab. Scurra Panz. 92. 6.

4. *P. extensor?* Fab.—Panz. 109. 11.

** Abdomen robust.

5. *P. Cossivora* Nob.—Bred from the pupa of *Cossus ligniperda*. *Brit. Ent. pl.* 60.

II. Ovipositor shorter than the body.

6. *P. pennator?* Fab.

7. *P. instigator* Fab.

8. *P. spectrum* (Sirex) Don. v. 7. pl. 225. not of Linn. nor Fab.—June, amongst leaves of Horse-radish.

9. *P. Æthiops* Nob.—Bred from the pupæ of *Arctia cænosa*. *Brit. Ent. pl.* 68.

10. *P. examiner* Fab.

11. *P. accusator* Fab.—Panz. 109. 12.

The above are the only species that appear to be described. It is well known that they all deposit their eggs in different larvæ; those with long oviducts in internal feeders, and the others in caterpillars of moths: many, if not all the *Pimplæ* when taken, emit a very fœtid odour. The ovipositor is generally considered to consist of 3 parts, but my friend Mr. Thomas Carpenter has discovered that the central part or oviduct is composed of a sheath inclosing 2 filaments; which gives strength, prevents the entrance from being closed when the oviduct is placed at a right angle with the body, and enables the insect to regulate the passage to the size of the egg: the same structure obtains in the *Cynipsidæ* also.

One of the plants upon which *Arctia cænosa* feeds, *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering Rush), is given with the *Pimpla*, which is a female.