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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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MYMAR PULCHELLUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Proctotrupidæ.

Type of the Genus, Ichneumon Punctum Shaw.

MYMAR Hal., Curt.—Ichneumon Linn.?—Shaw.

Antennæ inserted in front of the head, rather remote, very long, filiform and 13-jointed in the male, basal joint long, slender in the middle, clavate at the base and thickened before the apex, 2nd joint short obovate, 3rd and remainder nearly as long as the first joint, slightly tapering, terminal joint a little shorter, elliptic-conic (1): as long as the body, and geniculated in the female, clavate and 9-jointed, basal joint longer and stouter than in the male, but similar in form, 2nd short obovate, 3rd and 4th very slender, the former scarcely longer than the 2nd, the latter longer than the 1st, the 4 following submoniliform, gradually increasing in size and length, 9th joint the stoutest, subelliptic (1 ♀).

Mandibles tridentate (3).

Head *subglobose*. Eyes round, lateral, not prominent, coarsely granulated. Thorax *subovate*, gibbous and narrowed anteriorly. Abdomen generally attached by a long slender pedicle; inserted at the lower portion of the base, obovate, the upperside being very much arched: oviduct short but exerted (6). Wings; superior long and without nervures, the costa thickened, apex ciliated with long hairs; inferior either very narrow or merely a short rigid nervure. Legs long and slender. Thighs *incrassated* in the middle. Tibiæ a little thickened towards the base and apex, with a minute spine at the apex. Tarsi 4-jointed, basal joint the longest, 3rd scarcely shorter than the 4th which is a little dilated at the apex, and terminated by minute Claws and Pulvilli (8, a fore leg).

Obs. The dissections and descriptions are taken from the species figured.

PULCHELLUS Walk.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 586. 12.

Ochreous shining, slightly pubescent: eyes black: wings, superior formed of a long costal nervure, producing a blackish membrane only at the apex, the basal half of which is white and transparent, the edges and apex pilose with a longitudinal line of bristles, the margin beautifully ciliated with long hairs; inferior rudimentary only: terminal joint of tarsi fuscous.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Walker, Mr. Haliday, and the Author.

AMONGST other peculiar characters that mark this group, the tetramerous tarsi, and the structure of the wings, especially the inferior, which in some species form only a rigid nervure, must not be overlooked. In dissecting the head I discovered a mandible which was tridentate as represented in the plate, and I thought I could distinguish a mentum and maxillæ, but not a vestige of palpi.

These singular little insects are not unfrequently found on windows, where Mr. Dale has captured many curious species. Mr. Haliday has formed them into a genus, and Mr. F. Walker has favoured me with the following outline of his views on the arrangement of the British species.

I. Abdomen petiolated. A. Wings ciliated.

* Base of the superior wings represented by the costal nervure alone: inferior rudimentary, confined to the costal nervure.

12. *M. pulchellus* Walk.—*Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 411.—July and August; dry sunny banks and grass in fields in September, Southgate.

** Wings perfect.

† Ovipositor exerted, longer than the abdomen.

12^a. *M. atripennis* Walk.—June, amongst grass in a wood.

†† Ovipositor concealed beneath the abdomen.

The species of this division are found amongst grass in fields from May to September. They walk slowly.

5. *M. longipes* W.—June and July.

4. *M. Ovulorum?* Linn. *F. S.* 1644.

10. *M. fimbriatus* W.

7. *M. flavipes* W.—June.

9. *M. niger* W.

B. Wings not ciliated.

8. *M. dimidiatus* Hal. 15th Sept.—There are 12 others named by Mr. Walker: they jump slightly, move faster than the species of the preceding division, and inhabit the same localities.

II. Abdomen sessile. A. Wings not ciliated.

These are found with the species of the preceding division, at the same periods and in the same situations. They run very fast; but do not jump, it is supposed.

2. *M. acuminatus* Curt.

1. *M. fuscicornis* W.

16. *M. Atomus?* Linn. *S. N.* 2. 941. 76.

6. *M. pusillus* W.—June, windows.

B. Wings ciliated.

The species of this division are very minute, and may be found from June to October on windows.

13. *M. cucullatus* Curt.

3. *M. Punctum* Shaw.—Linn. *Trans. v.* 4. 189. *pl.* 18. *f.* 1.

14. *M. pallidus* Curt.

15. *M. longicornis* Curt.

11. *M. minimus* Walk.

C. Wings none.

19. *M. apterus* Walk.—New Lanark, Scotland.

17. *M. Monas*, and 18. *M. Termo*, I do not know, and Mr. Walker has 30 more species named.

The Plant is *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet).