

6
979
3
nt.
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.

VOL. III.

DERMAPTERA. DICTYOPTERA.
ORTHOPTERA. STREPSIPTERA.
HYMENOPTERA, PART I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY

F. ELLIS AND CO., 92 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND

J. B. BAILLIERE, 219 REGENT STREET.

1823—1840.





Pub. by J. Curtis Jan. 1. 1828

ANOMALON VESPARUM.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ Lat., Leach.

Type of the Genus Ichneumon lætatorius Fab.

ANOMALON *Jurine*.—*Ichneumon Linn., Fab., Lat., Panz.*—*Bassus Panz.*—*Cryptus & Ophion Fab.*

Antennæ approximating, inserted in front of the head sometimes above the middle, not longer or so long as the body, filiform, pilose, composed of 18 joints and upwards, basal joint the most robust, 2nd the smallest, 3rd the longest, terminal joint conical (fig. 1* a).

Labrum transverse-ovate, the sides attenuated, very pilose anteriorly (2).

Mandibles transverse when at rest, subtrigonal, bifid and acute at the extremity, pilose externally (3).

Maxillæ membranous, terminated by 2 dilated lobes, the inner one the smaller, the external one pilose. *Palpi* rather long, pilose, submembranous, 5-jointed, 2 first joints robust, nearly of equal length, the remainder slender, the 3rd being the longest, the 4th the shortest (4).

Mentum cup-shaped (5 a). *Palpi* rather long, pilose, robust, 4-jointed (b). *Labium* membranous, semicircular (c).

Head transverse, (1* front view). Eyes lateral. Ocelli 3 in triangle. Thorax subovate, sometimes elongated. Abdomen with the basal joint forming a very short peduncle, angulated on the sides. Ovipositor short, scarcely exerted. Wings, superior with one marginal and 2 large submarginal cells, the little one wanting, and a large one between the disc and the posterior margin. Legs, anterior the shortest, posterior the longest. Tibiæ spurred. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint long. Claws simple. Pulvilli minute (8 a fore leg).

Obs. the dissections were made from *A. Vesparum*.

VESPARUM *Nob.*

Black slightly but thickly punctured. Metathorax deeply sculptured. Abdomen very large and ovate, distinctly peduncled, rather glossy, pubescent towards the apex, the 2nd and 3rd joints dull ferruginous, fuscous in the centre. Wings pubescent, transparent, iridescent, nervures and stigmata dark brown, a transverse nervure next the posterior margin nearly obliterated. Legs ferruginous, posterior the most robust. Tarsi, posterior entirely, the others fuscous only at their apex.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Wood and the Author.

ALTHOUGH *Jurine* fell into error by servilely following his favourite system, and by that means has collected together, as in the present instance, a mass of insects differing exceedingly in

structure, still by selecting his type to draw our characters from, without reference to any of the others, we shall be able to make a sound genus of *Anomalon*.

Jurine's genus is distinguished from most of the *Ichneumonidæ* by the absence of the areolet, or second submarginal little cell, so common to this family, and from many others by the large cell joining the first submarginal one, which is imperfectly closed next the posterior margin in *A. Vesparum*; but it is not so in Jurine's type, *A. lætatorius*. There are a considerable number of species that agree with these insects in their wings; but we shall not venture to place them in the same genus at present, as they present other differences.

1. *A. lætatorius* *Fab. Panz.* 19. 19. *mas.*—100. 14. *fem.*—102. 18. *fem. var.*—Middle and end of July upon plants in meadows and gardens.

2. *Vesparum* *Nob.*

For specimens of this *Anomalon* (probably females), one of which is figured, we are indebted to the zeal and liberality of Mr. R. Wood of Manchester, who transmitted them with the nidus and following observations upon this singular insect. "In examining the combs of some Wasps' nests, (near the end of July probably,) in one of them I discovered many cells about half the length of those of the Wasps, and capped with wax. I put the comb into a glass jar, and the day following had the gratification of finding that three had eaten their way out of the cells. I think they were the liveliest insects I ever saw; yet on going to look at them again, I found that several Wasps had emerged from their cells and had actually eaten two of them. I then took out the comb, and destroyed the young Wasps by running a pin through them in their cells, and again put the comb into the jar; and in a few days three others came out. I fed them with honey, and they seemed to be very fond of it." Nothing has transpired since the comb has been in our possession; but we expect that those cells containing the *Anomalon*, will produce the other sex of the insect in the course of next summer. The cells occupied were in various situations, from two to four together: each cocoon was hexagonal, and filled the inside of the Wasp's cell; it was very tough and silky, round at the bottom and flat at the top. It is worthy of remark, that the cells of the Wasps containing the *Anomalon* were closed like the others; and upon opening them the exuvia of the Wasp's grub filled a space about one-third of the cell, from which we conclude that the eggs were deposited in the bodies of the larvæ and lived in them till they became nymphæ.

The plant is *Inula pulicaria* (Less Fleabane).