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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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Illustrated by J. Curtis, Apr. 1831

TRYPHON VARITARSUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

Type of the Genus, Ichneumon rutilator Linn.

TRYPHON *Fall., Grav., Curt.*—Ichneumon *Linn., Fab.*—Cryptus & Bassus *Fab.*

Antennæ inserted in the centre of the face, approximating, as long as the body, fusiform, composed of numerous pubescent joints; basal joint robust oval, 2nd subglobose, 3rd ring-shaped, 4th long, 5th half the length, the remainder decreasing in length to the apical joint which is very minute and conical, (1, portions of the base and apex.)

Labrum transverse-fusiform, the edge ciliated with long bristles producing a trigonate coriaceous lobe beneath, elongated and attenuated at the apex (2).

Mandibles arched, bifid at the apex (3).

Maxillæ with an internal fleshy suborbicular lobe and an external one subovate and very pilose. *Palpi* very long, pubescent and pilose, 5-jointed, 2nd a little the longest and broadest, penultimate a little the shortest, terminal joint the slenderest (4).

Mentum oblong subovate. *Palpi* rather long, pubescent pilose and 4-jointed, basal and terminal joints of equal length, the former clavate, the latter subfusiform, 2nd and 3rd short, the former a little the broadest and shortest. *Lip* bifid or deeply emarginate (5).

Head *short transverse and orbicular, face flat.* Eyes *oval.* Ocelli 3 in triangle. Thorax *subglobose: scutellum rather small convex and subtrigonal: postscutellum channelled.* Abdomen *subsessile oblong clavate and convex, the ovipositor short but exerted* (6). Wings *pubescent, superior rather broad and truncated obliquely at the apex, areolet subrhomboidal with a pedicle above, the first recurrent nervure very much sinuated* (9). Legs; *hinder pair the longest.* Thighs; *posterior the stoutest.* Tibiæ *simple and spurred.* Tarsi *as long as the tibiæ; posterior not very thick 5-jointed, 4th joint minute.* Claws *simple.* Pulvilli *distinct.*

Obs. *The dissections are taken from T. varitarsus ♀, excepting the wing.*

VARITARSUS *Grav. Ich. Eur. v. 2. p. 222. n. 146.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 492. n. 146.*

Black, shining, pubescent: antennæ fuscous, black at the base, ochreous beneath. Head punctured, face clothed with hoary pubescence; labrum ferruginous, mandibles yellow. Abdomen with 2nd and 3rd segments rufous. Wings iridescent and transparent, nervures and stigma brown, except at the base where they are pale yellow. Legs bright ochre, trochanters black, coxæ pale yellow, the posterior sometimes black at the base, as well as the tips of the thighs; tibiæ and tarsi of this pair black, the former with the middle and spurs white, the latter with the base of the joints whitish; in the other tarsi the apex is blackish.

In the Author's and other Cabinets.

GRAVENHORST has described 143 species of Tryphon, and the following have been found in this country.

T. prærogator L. *T. erythrocerus* Gr. *T. lateralis* Gr.
T. compunctator L. *T. mesoxanthus* Gr. *T. melanocerus* Gr.
T. melancholicus Gr. *T. elongator* F. *T. semicaligatus* Gr.
T. lucidulus Gr. *T. sphærocephalus* Gr. *T. insolens* Gr.
T. aulicus Gr. *T. pastoralis* Gr. *T. evolans* Gr.
T. marginatorius F. *T. mitigosus* Gr. *T. fulvilabris* Gr.
T. tricolor Gr. *T. notatus* Gr. *T. rutilator* Gr.
T. varitarsus Gr.

Mr. Haliday has discovered two new species, one *T. aurifluus* (the type of his proposed subgenus *Cteniscus*) occurs on Willows from July to Sept. ; the other he has named *T. Curtisii*, and says, "The only specimen I have seen belongs to the same type, as well as *T. sexlituratus* and about three species besides in my cabinet."

For the following observations I am indebted to the same gentleman, and am sorry I can only give an abridgement of them. "*T. varitarsus* I have sent a specimen of, to illustrate Gravenhorst's note on this species: he errs in supposing it the effect of accident; 3 out of 4 specimens occur thus affected. I subjoin extracts from my notes on the subject, with a sketch of the larvæ (for such they are, and not eggs) in different stages. The Tryphons occur in August and Sept. on Willows and Ragwort, and I have found as many as 18 larvæ attached to one insect: at first they are all of a smooth pear-shaped and shining opaque waxy tint (fig. B); in a few days they appear as represented at C, which is the underside: at this stage its voracious powers develop themselves, and I find the oldest generally making a meal of his next neighbour, who is soon sucked to the skin. I observed two motions in the mouth, one an opening and shutting of the mandibles, the other a general dilatation and contraction of the membrane of the mouth. Beyond this they show little signs of life while attached to the oviduct, but on being removed, which is easily done without injuring them, the darker ones have a slight jerking motion."

Neither Mr. Haliday nor myself know the male of *T. varitarsus*, but all the females I have seen have had these nits attached to them; each appears to me to be an animal contained in a bladder which has a peduncle at the lower end (B), by which it is attached to the base of the oviduct (A); they are there nourished, but whether the animal ever leaves the sac I am not able to determine: I think it probable, since I found that the bladders attached to the upperside of the abdomen of a female *Dyticus marginalis* contained an Hydrachna or Limnochares, the drawings of which I have by me.

The Plant is *Spergula nodosa* (Knotted Spurrey).