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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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*Chalcididae*

## ABIA NIGRICORNIS.

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

*Type of the Genus Tenthredo sericea Linn.*

ABIA *Leach.* *Cimbex Fab., Oliv., Lat. Tenthredo Linn., Jur., Panz.*

*Antennæ* inserted near the interior margin of the eyes, short clavate, 7-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints transverse, hairy, 3rd very long bent, clavate, 4th and 5th more robust clavate-truncate, 6th short robust, 7th short rounded (fig. 1).

*Labrum* transverse, rounded, very pilose (2).

*Mandibles* small, bent, somewhat acute, with a strong tooth on the internal edge, very hairy externally (3).

*Maxillæ* small, internal lobe acute, external ovate ciliated. *Palpi* long coriaceous at the base, membranaceous towards the apex, slightly hairy, 1st and 2nd joints very short, 3rd and 4th of equal length, robust, 5th and 6th longer and more slender (4).

*Mentum* somewhat quadrate, deeply emarginate (5 a). *Palpi* 4-jointed, 2 first joints coriaceous, the others membranaceous (b).

*Lip* composed of 3 equal lobes, margined (c).

Head rather small. Eyes of the males approximating behind. Ocelli 3, placed before the eyes, especially in the males. Abdomen sessile, villose, cylindric, broader in the females, the males having a quadrate silky spot beyond the middle. Oviduct not exerted, composed of 2 lamellæ which are serrated. Superior wings with 2 marginal and 3 submarginal cells. Legs slender. Tibiæ with obtuse syphon-formed spurs. Tarsi with the joints gradually decreasing in length to the last, 5-jointed, 4 first joints with membranaceous appendages. Claws bifid. Pulvilli distinct (8 a fore leg).

Larvæ with membranaceous feet.

NIGRICORNIS *Leach, Zool. Mis. v. 3. p. 113. n. 1.—nitens Linn. Faun. Suec. 1539.—sericea var. Fab. Syst. Piez. p. 18. n. 10.*

*Male:* Antennæ black. Eyes dull cinereous. Head and thorax greenish-black. Abdomen dull, brassy green, minutely punctured and covered with short pubescence, a large quadrangular blackish spot upon the centre of the 4th, 5th, and 6th segments. Wings iridescent at their margins, stained yellow; superior variegated with brown in the centre and at the apex, nerves pale towards the base, dark at their extremities. Legs pale ochraceous, thighs æneous-black, except at the apex. *Female:* Antennæ with the club brown. Abdomen dull aureous green, without any spot.

*In the Author's and other Cabinets.*

*ABIA* was separated from the *Cimbices* by Dr. Leach, and is easily distinguished from his genus *Zaræa*, which it most resembles, by the three last joints of the antennæ forming a club, whereas in *Zaræa* it is composed of only 2; and the singular quadrate spot upon the abdomens of the males at once distinguishes that sex from the whole family.

*Abia nigricornis* appears to have been considered by Linnaeus as the female of *Tenthredo nitens*, and by Fabricius as a variety of *Cimbex sericea*. Amongst other distinctions, however, the colour of the antennæ, the brown markings of the wings, and the situation and form of the spot upon the abdomen of the males are sufficient, now that the sexes of both have been taken, to justify its being recorded as a distinct species. It was, I believe, never before figured. It has been taken at Coombe Wood, by J. F. Stephens, Esq., in the month of June. *A sericea*, the other species inhabiting this kingdom, has been found on heaths upon Furze-bushes, in June, and sometimes occurs in considerable abundance: it is figured by Donovan in his *Brit. Ins. v. 12. pl. 402*.

The plant represented is *Genista anglica* (Needle Furze, or Petty Whin).