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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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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.





Printed by J. Smith, London 1826

ALYSIA APII.

ORDER Coleoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ Lat., Leach.

Type of the Genus Ichneumon Manducator Panz.

ALYSIA Lat., Leach.—Ichneumon Panz.—Cryptus Fab.—Bracon Jur.
—Cechenus Ill.

Antennæ inserted in front of the face, long, slender, submoniliform, pubescent, containing from 30 to 50 joints, basal joint obovate robust, 2nd globose, 3rd slender, 4th and following subquadrate, terminal ovate (fig. 1 a).

Labrum triangular, pilose, membranous at the apex (2).

Mandibles remote, lateral, not crossing each other, subquadrate, narrowed towards the base, tridentate at the apex (3 & 1*).

Maxillæ with the lobes coriaceous, external one membranous at the edge, pilose; internal one acute. *Palpi* very long, pilose, 6-jointed, basal joint short slender, 2nd short robust, 3rd and 4th long, the former robust, 5th nearly as long as the 6th (4).

Mentum elongated, emarginate, (5 a). *Palpi* long robust pilose 4-jointed, 2nd joint the thickest (b). *Lip* subcoriaceous, hollow, rounded, broader than the mentum (c).

Head *transverse*. Ocelli 3 *in triangle*. Eyes *small lateral*; (1* *front view of the head*). Thorax *ovate*. Abdomen *attached by a very short peduncle, rugose at the base, slightly depressed in the males, somewhat compressed in the females, 7- or 8-jointed and truncated at the apex*. Oviduct *somewhat robust, in some longer in others shorter than the abdomen*, (6, *abdomen of a female in profile*). Wings *pubescent, the nervure not continued round, with 1 marginal, 3 submarginal, and two discoidal cells* (9). Stigma *sometimes very much elongated*. Inferior wings *with nervures at the base*. Legs, *hinder ones a little the longest*. Tibiæ *simple*. Tarsi *5-jointed*.

APII Nobis.

Black, smooth, shining. Head not very large; trophi ochraceous; antennæ very long pubescent, basal joint beneath and 2nd joint ferruginous. Thorax with a deep fovea between the wings; metathorax punctured. Abdomen piceous slightly pubescent, basal joint rugose punctured, 2nd rufous at the base. Oviduct very short, nearly obsolete. Legs ochraceous, apex of tarsi fuscous. Wings pubescent, very iridescent, superior large; stigma extending the greater portion of the costa, fuscous, nervures of the same colour.

In the Cabinet of the Author.

ALYSIA approaches very near to *Bracon*, especially in the structure of the wings, which are however alike in both sexes; the labial and maxillary palpi have a joint more than those of *Bracon*, and its tridentate jaws so remarkably situated, at once distinguish it from all other genera.

Of this singular genus only one species appears to have been described, and that has never been recorded as British: we have had the good fortune to discover eight others of which we shall give short descriptions, first observing that all, excepting No. 6, are black and shining, with ochraceous legs.

I. Stigma short, subtrigonate.

A Oviduct shorter than the body.

- 1 *A. Manducator*, *Panz. Faun. Germ. fas. 72, n. 4, fem.*—
Antennæ very pubescent in the female, rather robust, ferruginous at the base.
- 2 *apicalis Nob.*—Mandibles black at their apex.
- 3 *similis Nob.*—Smaller, antennæ black at their base, mandibles entirely ferruginous.

B Oviduct as long as the body.

- 4 *Pratellæ Nob.*—Black, shining, legs trophi and base of antennæ ferruginous. Head very large. Antennæ very long, slightly pubescent. Stigma narrow.
- 5 *gracilis Nob.*—Oviduct not longer than the body. Head small, ferruginous next the eyes. Antennæ entirely piceous.
- 6 *pallida Nob.*—Dull ochraceous, eyes and a spot between them black; metathorax and base of abdomen black; apex piceous; antennæ and nervures of wings fuscous.

II. Stigma elongated.

- 7 *Apii Nob.*
- 8 *pubescens Nob.*—Oviduct short, but visible. Smaller than the last, covered with pale pubescence, especially the thorax.
- 9 *minuta Nob.*—Small, nervures of the wings very strong and black.

A. Manducator is not uncommon upon umbellate plants in meadows, the dung of animals, &c.

A. Pratellæ. Found with some *Cynipsidæ* the end of September in the park of Heron Court, Hampshire, by my esteemed friend the Hon. Charles A. Harris, who discovered them concealed between the collar and gills of very young mushrooms.

A. Apii. For specimens of this insect and their history I am indebted to a lady who found the larvæ feeding upon the parenchyma of celery leaves the 30th Sept.; on the 11th Oct. they had changed to shining oval pupæ of a dull ochre colour, having very much the appearance of a shell (*Turbo Chrysalis* of Turton); the imago appeared the June following.

Our insect receives its specific name from the genus of plants to which it is destructive; and *Apium graveolens* (Wild Celery) being an indigenous species, it is figured in the plate.