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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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*Tab. 4. p. 2. Carb. 117. 1800*

## HELORUS ANOMALIPES.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Proctotrupidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Sphex anomalipes Panz.*

HELORUS Lat., Jur., Curt.—Sphex Panz.

*Antennæ* inserted between the eyes, not approximating, shorter than the body, filiform and clothed with very short pubescence, composed of 16 joints, basal joint the stoutest, ovate-truncate, 2nd globose, 3rd ring-shaped, 4th longer than the following which decrease slightly in length to the apical joint which is ovate (1).

*Labrum?* long narrow, spear-shaped and ciliated with long bristles (2).

*Mandibles* porrected, strong, curved and slightly hairy, the apex forming a large tooth with 2 large ones below on the inside (3); the superior the smallest in one mandible.

*Maxillæ* terminated by a rounded hairy coriaceous lobe, with a large but thinner one on the inside. *Palpi* long hairy and 5-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints of equal length, the former very slender at the base, the others very long, the 3rd and 4th being stout and subclavate, 5th the longest and slenderest (4).

*Mentum* oblong, hairy, emarginate on each side near the apex, where the *Palpi* are attached; they are rather long hairy and triarticulate; basal joint slightly clavate, 2nd shorter, subovate, 3rd a little longer than the 1st subclavate (5).

Head rather large and transverse. Eyes lateral and oval. Ocelli 3. Thorax obovate, the postscutellum rugose. Wings iridescent and pubescent superior rather broad, the stigma rather large with a small angulated marginal cell, and a minute looped one on the disc. Abdomen attached by a long peduncle, stoutest at the base, the body ovate-conic, with the apex inflected, the greater portion covered by the basal joint (6). Legs simple. Tibiæ; anterior with a curved spine at the apex, the others with small spurs. Tarsi as long as the tibiæ, 5-jointed, basal joint long, 4th small. Claws distinct.

ANOMALIPES Panz. 52. 23. and 100. 18 var.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 574. 2.

Black shining and punctured, clothed with very minute yellowish hairs. Trophi ferruginous, the head with 2 large foveæ in front where the antennæ are inserted, postscutellum rugose: peduncle urn-shaped, channelled and carinated at the base. Legs ochreous, the base of the anterior and the whole of the other thighs, excepting the tips, black, the apex of the tarsi fuscous. Wings slightly stained with yellowish brown, the stigma and nervures piceous.

*In the Author's and other Cabinets.*

HELORUS is a genus that does not appear to be immediately connected with any that have been at present discovered, for the neuration of the wings reminds us of Cynips; the pedunculated body, of Agriotypus (pl. 389.); and the structure of the mouth shows an affinity to Bethylus, to which genus I believe Mr. Haliday thinks it most allied; indeed there can be no doubt of its belonging to the family of Proctotrupidæ; but it may be at once distinguished from all its congeners by the curved nervure, forming, as Jurine observes, a horse-shoe in the centre of the superior wings.

The portion of the mouth figured as the labrum, may be only an appendage to it, but it was all I could discover, and I had only the opportunity of dissecting one specimen; I believe a similar lobe is exerted from the mouths of the Bethyli.

Mr. F. Walker showed me some specimens which I suspect are the males of our insect; they are more slender, the antennæ are brown or ochreous, the wings transparent, the peduncle much more slender than in my specimen; the body is more acute, the legs are very slender and ochreous, with black coxæ, and the posterior thighs are brown, except at the base and apex.

It is not improbable that the *H. ater* represented in Jurine's 14th plate may be nothing more than a variety of *H. anomalipes* with the legs entirely black; for in one of Panzer's figures all the thighs are black, and I have a specimen in which only the tips of the anterior thighs and their tibiæ are ochreous.

Helorus is by no means a common insect; I took specimens many years since in Norfolk, and Mr. Kirby has observed it in Suffolk; Mr. F. Walker takes it at Southgate in a marshy meadow in August; Mr. Dale has found it on Parley Heath, Dorset; and Mr. Haliday sent me a specimen from Belfast; he detected it in a marshy field at Holywood.

The Plant represented is *Solanum nigrum* (Common Nightshade).