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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

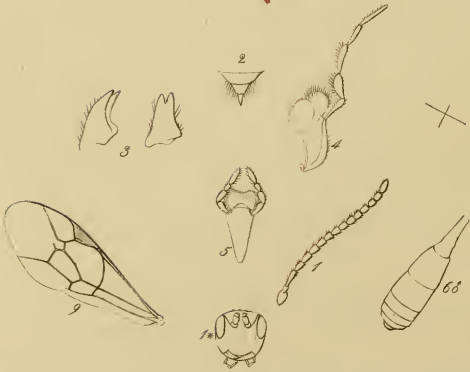
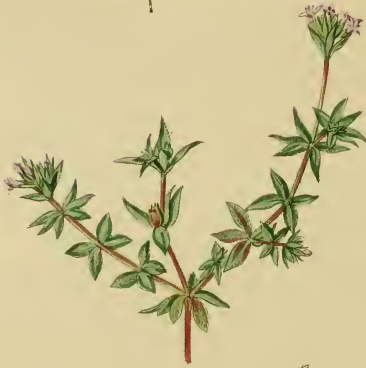
F. ELLIS AND CO., 92 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND

J. B. BAILLIERE, 219 REGENT STREET.

1823—1840.





STILPNUS DRYADUM.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

Type of the Genus, Stilpnus gagates Grav.

STILPNUS Grav., Curt., Hal.

Antennæ inserted between the eyes in front of the face, as long as the thorax, rather stout, slightly thickened towards the apex, pubescent and composed of 20 joints in the male and 16 in the female (1), basal joint robust ovate, 2nd small globose, 3rd generally the longest, slender, the 3 following rather longer than the remainder which are ovate-quadrate, the terminal joint longer and conical.

Labrum with the basal portion semicircular, coriaceous and ciliated, the centre membranous, ciliated and forming an elongate triangle, articulated at the middle (2).

Mandibles curved, acute and bifid at the apex (3).

Maxillæ terminated by 2 suborbicular pubescent lobes, the internal one with the cilia very short, the external one pilose at the apex. *Palpi* long and rather slender, composed of 5 hairy joints, nearly of equal length and subclavate, the 2nd dilated on the inside, 4th rather the shortest, 5th a little the longest and linear (4).

Mentum elongate obtrigonal. *Lip* distinct, hollow, pubescent and slightly emarginate. *Palpi* much shorter than the maxillary, pilose, 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints of equal length and rather stout, the former clavate, the latter subovate, 3rd the smallest, 4th a little the longest, cylindrical oval (5).

Head short transverse, face orbicular. Eyes rather prominent and oval. Ocelli 3 in triangle (1*). Thorax oblong, obovate, gibbous. Scutellum convex, semiobovate. Wings; anterior with a large triangular stigma, a triangular marginal cell, not reaching the apex; areolet small, pentagonal and scarcely closed on the furthest side, the 2 posterior cells united (9). Abdomen slightly depressed, narrower than the thorax and somewhat linear or elliptical in the males (6♂); suborbicular and broader than the thorax in the females; petiole rather long and narrow, channelled and dilated posteriorly; ovipositor concealed. Legs more slender in the male than female: tibiæ a little dilated towards the apex and spurred: tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest. Claws and Pulvilli distinct.

DRYADUM Haliday's MSS. Curtis's Guide, Gen. 488. n° 289^a.

In the Cabinet of Mr. Haliday.

THIS genus, Mr. Haliday says, seems more allied to Hemiteles than to any of the other Ichneumonidæ, indeed sometimes they can only be distinguished by the areolet, or a little difference in the length of the aculeus. The males of *Stilpnus*

and of some species of *Atractodes* are also very similar. I have not heard of any of the species being bred from the pupa; and when my *Guide* was published, one only was known to inhabit these Islands, but since that period the following have been detected in England and Ireland; and I am indebted to A. H. Haliday, Esq. for specimens, as well as the loan of the example figured.

1. *S. gagates* Grav. v. 1. p. 667. n. 288.—*Curtis's Guide*.

Length $1\frac{2}{3}$ to 2 lines. Black, shining; antennæ often ferruginous beneath at the base; stigma and nervures brown, ochreous at the base; abdomen of the male sometimes with an ochreous band at the base of the second joint. Legs rufous; coxæ, especially the hind pair, generally black, tips of tarsi dusky.

June and August, Ireland, Mr. Haliday: I took females in a garden at St. John's Wood, the end of September, and I believe in May also; and another which was much larger at Rhennes in France, the beginning of June.

2. *S. Pavoniæ* Scop.—*Grav.* 1. 671. 289.—*Curt. Guide*.

Similar to No. 1. but the antennæ are ochreous at the base, and the legs are of a paler colour: I suspect it is merely a variety. Not uncommon in Ireland, from June to August. I have also taken it with the last.

3. *S. dryadum* Hal.—*Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 388.

Black, shining: antennæ straw-colour at the base, the first joint sometimes with a black spot on the upper side: wings with the stigma and nervures pale brown, yellowish at the base: abdomen in the male with a pale ochreous band at the anterior margin of the second and third segments; female with a broad ochreous stripe down the back of the second, third and fourth segments, a spot at the tip of the petiole (which has a channel down the middle), and the margin of the second segment pale ochreous. Legs ochraceous, tips of tarsi blackish.

Obs. Sometimes the abdomen of the female is entirely black, and this sex has only fourteen joints in the antennæ. Both sexes of this new species were taken on oak-trees in Galway, Ireland, by Mr. Haliday.

4. *S. blandus* Grav. 1. 672. 290.—*Curt. Guide*.

Female 2 lines long: black, shining; first and second joints of antennæ ochreous beneath; second and third segments of abdomen rufous; ovipositor exerted but very short: legs pale rufous, posterior coxæ black at the base.

Rare: taken by Mr. Haliday in Ireland.

The Plant is *Sherardia arvensis* (Little Field-madder).