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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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*Chrysothrix* ... 1850

## BRACON DENIGRATOR.

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

*Type of the Genus Ichneumon desertor Linn.*

BRACON *Jur., Fab., Lat., Panz.* Ichneumon *Linn., Fab.* Vipio *Lat., Hist. Nat.*

*Antennæ* inserted in front of the head, nearly filiform, somewhat thickened towards the extremity in the male only, pubescent, composed of about 47 joints, 1st joint robust, elongated, truncated, 2nd cup-shaped, 3rd longer than the following, which decrease in length imperceptibly to the last joint which is conic (fig. 1).

*Labrum* coriaceous, trigonate, inflexed, apex acute, membranaceous appendage small, lanceolate. *Lat.*

*Mandibles* small, acute, internal edge sinuated (3).

*Maxillæ* small, terminal lobe large, trigonate, somewhat acute, hairy, coriaceous externally, membranaceous internally: *Palpi* very long, pilose, 1st and 2nd joints small, the 3 following long of nearly equal length, the first being very robust, the last slender (4).

*Mentum* elongated, dilated anteriorly, deeply emarginate (5 a): *Palpi* longer than the lip, pilose, 3-jointed, 1st joint short, 2nd long, robust, clavate, 3rd long, somewhat slender cylindric (b): *Lip* entire, concave, sides conniving externally (c).

Head *quadrate*. *Ocelli* 3, distant in the males, approximating in the females. Abdomen somewhat depressed, nearly sessile, ovate in the males, obovate in the females. *Oviduct* in some longer, in others shorter, than the body (6). *Wings* pubescent, with 1 marginal, 2 submarginal and 2 discoidal cells, the marginal and 2nd submarginal cells elongated in the females (9). *Legs* robust. *Thighs* short. *Tibiæ* spurred. *Tarsi* 5-jointed, 1st joint elongated, 4th minute. *Claws* simple. *Pulvilli* distinct.

DENIGRATOR *Linn. Syst. Nat.* 2. 934. 28.—*Fab. Ent. Syst.* v. 2. p. 161. n. 112.

Black, smooth, shining, slightly pubescent, abdomen orange, shining, punctured pubescent. *Wings* iridescent, dark fuscous, with a transverse obscure, whitish, lunulated mark, crossing the 1st submarginal cell, nerves strong, piceous: female larger than the male: *oviduct* shorter than the abdomen.

*In the Cabinets of Mr. Stephens and Mr. Stone.*

ALTHOUGH there are a considerable number of minute species with transparent wings which are comprised in the genus

*Bracon*, it will be found that they do not well agree with the characters of the larger ones with opaque wings, which appear to be universally distributed, being found as far south as the Cape of Good Hope, from whence we receive a variety of beautiful species; on the continent of Europe there have been several detected, but we can claim but one at present in this country.

Mons. Latreille has observed that the mouth is produced in the form of a rostrum, like *Agathis*: it appears to me that the lip and maxillæ unite, so as to form a short proboscis; but this is not easily discoverable in dead specimens, except by dissection. The same author has described the labial palpi as 4-jointed, but I am inclined to agree with Fabricius, that they have only 3 joints. I would wish here to remark, that the costal nerve is continued round the wing, and not terminated near the apex, as is common with the Ichneumonidæ; that the submarginal cells are complete, but the last transverse nerve is less strong than the others, especially in the female; and that the 1st submarginal and two discoidal cells, which are nearly of equal size, form a regular line across the superior wings: indeed so great are the differences of structure, as well as economy of *Bracon* and its congeners, that it is probable when further investigated and better understood, they will be found to form a natural and extensive family.

The male of *Bracon Denigrator*, it is presumed, is very rare even upon the continent, otherwise it would have been figured with the other sex. That which is here represented, was taken last year in Birchwood, Kent, and is now in the possession of Mr. Stone; and the only female that I have seen, was captured by the Rev. W. Kirby, and is now in Mr. Stephens's fine collection. Panzer in his *Fauna Germanica*, fasc. 45. n. 14. has figured this sex.

Fabricius says, that it frequents gardens upon the continent, where it appears to be not uncommon; and Latreille informs us, that the female deposits her eggs in the fruit of plants, especially thistles.

The plant figured is *Cichorium Intybus* (Wild Succory).