

6
979
3
nt.
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.

BY JOHN CURTIS, F.L.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY OF OXFORD,
OF THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF FLORENCE,
OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, ETC.

VOL. III.

DERMAPTERA. DICTYOPTERA.
ORTHOPTERA. STREPSIPTERA.
HYMENOPTERA, PART I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY

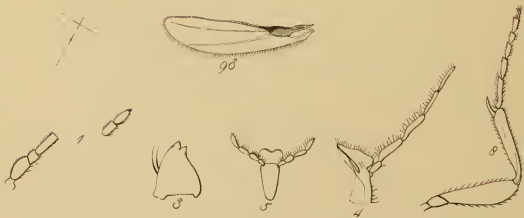
F. ELLIS AND CO., 92 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND

J. B. BAILLIERE, 219 REGENT STREET.

1823—1840.





Chalcididae

HECABOLUS SULCATUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

Type of the Genus, Spathius sulcatus Curt.

HECABOLUS Hal. MSS.—Spathius Curt.

Antennæ inserted near the centre of the face, approximating, as long as the head and thorax, composed of 24 joints in both sexes, basal joint stout, subovate, 2nd globose, 3rd nearly as long as the 1st and almost linear, the remainder gradually decreasing in length, the apical joint conical (1, the base and apex). *Labrum* undiscovered.

Mandibles stout, subtrigonal, obtusely bifid, with 2 or 3 bristles outside (3).

Mazillæ membranous, with a lanceolate internal lobe, and a larger more ovate and pilose external one. *Palpi* long, rather slender and bristly on the inside, 6-jointed, basal joint minute, 2nd elongate-ovate, the remainder twice as long, scarcely decreasing in length, 3rd and 4th rather stout (4).

Mentum elongate subconic. *Lip* broader and subcordate. *Palpi* rather short, hairy, compressed and 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints the shortest and broadest, suborbicular. 3rd and 4th joints longer and slender, the former subclavate, the latter conical at the apex (5).

Head *spherical*: eyes *rather small and globose*: ocelli 3 *in triangle on the crown of the head*. Thorax *elongate-ovate*. Abdomen *clavate, gradually attenuated to the base, having no petiole*: ovipositor *longer than the insect*. Wings *pubescent and ciliated*, superior with a *thickened stigma, a long marginal cell, a rhomboidal and a long submarginal one, and a discoidal cell equal in size to the 1st submarginal one*: inferior wings with 2 longitudinal nervures and 2 or 3 radical cells, the male having a *thickened stigma near the base* (9 ♂). Legs *moderate, posterior a little the largest*; thighs *a little incrassated and clavate*: tibiæ *short and simple*: tarsi *5-jointed, basal joint the longest, 4th the smallest, claws and pulvilli distinct* (8).

SULCATUS Curt. *Guide, Gen.* 545ⁿ. 5.

Pitchy shining black, antennæ pale ferruginous, dusky towards the apex, a ferruginous spot sometimes behind each eye; disk of the thorax, postscutellum, 2 first joints of abdomen and the base of the 3rd finely striated with minute punctures between the lines, 2nd joint in the female more or less ferruginous and the ovipositor deep ochreous, tips of the sheaths black: wings iridescent, nervures and stigma piceous: legs ferruginous brown, upper side of thighs darker as well as the tips of the tarsi.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Rudd and the Author.

HECABOLUS is evidently nearly allied to Spathius, in which group it is included in the Guide, but the shorter and stouter antennæ and the absence of the petiole to the abdomen distinguish it from the latter genus; the male is also characterized in a very remarkable manner, having a stigma on the costa near to the base of the inferior wings, similar in substance and colour to those in the upper wings, and filling one of the cells, which is open in the other sex.

Many years since I discovered a female of this curious insect in Norfolk, and afterwards both sexes on a post very much perforated by insects in a Garden at Fulham; they were entering the holes with *Heriades* (I believe), *Pemphredon*, *Crabro*, *Ptilinus*, &c.

I am also indebted to the Rev. G. T. Rudd for specimens which he found on an old ash post in Yorkshire. He states to me in his letter that they were confined to one spot and post, and were evidently parasitic on the genus *Ptilinus*, and he has lately informed me that he discovered dead specimens of the *Hecabolus* in the pupæ-cases (which they completely filled) of *Ptilinus pectinicornis*, and also the *Cheiropachus quadrum* (*Cleonimus maculipennis* of this work, folio 194.) in profusion in the pupæ-cases of *Hylesinus Fraxini*, thereby confirming the remarks made by Mr. Cooper in the Entomological Magazine.

For specimens of the rare plant figured, *Daphne Mezereum* (The Mezereon), I am indebted to J. C. Dale, Esq., who procured them the beginning of last April from Cranbourn Chase, Dorsetshire.