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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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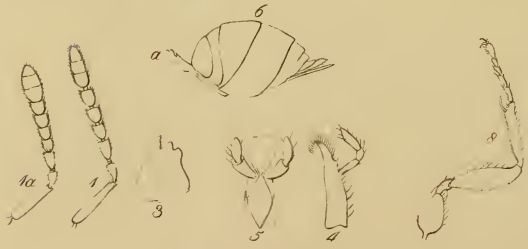


Plate by S. Curtis Feb. 1, 1881

DECATOMA COOPERI.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Cynipidæ Lat., Leach.

Type of the Genus, Decatoma biguttata Swed.

DECATOMA Spin., Curtis's Guide, Gen. 650.—Eurytoma Dal.

Antennæ inserted in the centre of the face, geniculate, pilose, excepting the basal joint, which is received into a groove in front of the face, longer in the male than female; 9-jointed in the male, the 1st joint long, 2nd curved subpyriform, two annuli forming the base of the 3rd joint which is oval truncate, longer than the 3 following which are remotely articulated, the remainder forming a narrow elongated club, the apex producing very short spreading bristles (1): 10-jointed in the female, 1st joint long, 2nd slender, bent subpyriform, then follow I think 2 annuli, the 3rd joint obovate truncate, 4 following semioval, the remainder forming an ovate or conical club (1 a).

Mandibles subtrigonate, truncated obliquely and tridentate, the apical tooth acute, the internal one blunt (3).

Maxillæ long and narrow, rounded and ciliated at the apex, and producing a membranous dilated margin. *Palpi* slender, triarticulate, basal and 3rd joints long, the latter truncated obliquely and pilose, 2nd joint subovate (4).

Mentum rhomboid. *Lip* large, oblong, narrowed at the base, the anterior margin sinuated. *Palpi* large, biarticulate, basal joint truncate, 2nd subovate pilose (5).

Head broad, short, slightly concave in front. Eyes large, lateral. Ocelli 3. Trunk oblong: prothorax large transverse. Scutellum rounded. Wings remote from the head, pubescent, superior large, obtuse, with a subcostal nervure, touching the costa beyond the centre where it forms a short branch. Abdomen very small, subglobose and attached by a long stout petiolus in the male: longer ovate, slightly compressed, the petiolus much shorter and the apex acuminated, with an ovipositor beneath in the female (6; a, the point of attachment). Coxæ large, producing a transparent plate at the apex of the anterior pair: thighs incrassated, especially the posterior: tibiæ spurred, posterior ciliated externally with a few spiny bristles: tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest: claws bent: pulvilli distinct (8, a fore leg).

COOPERI Curtis.

Female black, pubescent, very closely and coarsely punctured; under side of antennæ, tip of the 2nd joint and the apex ochreous; face of the same colour: collar with a narrow orange border, broadest before and interrupted behind; base of the wings orange: abdomen very smooth and shining: superior wings with a sublunular brown stigma, black at the costa, the nervures ferruginous: legs ochreous, posterior coxæ black, intermediate thighs with a streak of black, the posterior black except at the base and apex, posterior tibiæ black in the middle.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Cooper and the Author.

DECATOMA is a genus proposed by Spinola, but I am ignorant of his characters: from the typical Eurytoma it is distinguished by the antennæ being clavate in the female; and the 2nd basal joint is very nearly as long as the 3rd, not reckoning the little rings; whereas in Eurytoma, the 3rd joint is frequently almost as long as the basal one, and very much longer than the 2nd. It is very important to remember, also, that the maxillary palpi are only triarticulate; for Mr. Haliday has observed, that they are composed of 4 joints in *E. longula*? Dal.

I shall characterize the species lent to me by F. Walker, Esq. of Southgate, where they were taken, I believe, on grass under trees.

1. *D. Cooperi* Curtis's *Brit. Ent. pl.* 345. *fem.*

For males of this pretty insect, I am indebted to A. Cooper, Esq., who beat them out of a hazel-bush, with one female, in September, close to the river Mole at Cobham.

2. *D. biguttata* Swed.—*Female* much smaller, but similar to No. 1: antennæ black, the tip of the 2nd joint only ochreous: face variegated with yellow: collar of the same colour, with a large trilobed black mark: abdomen with a yellow spot on each side, near the centre: legs pale ochre, variegated as in No. 1.

3. *D. variegata* Walk. *MSS.*—Similar to No. 2, but much smaller: the collar is yellow, with the centre and a spot on each side black, a yellow horse-shoe-formed mark above each upper wing: the hinder thighs have only a broad black ring round the middle, and the stigma is trigonate.

4. *D. obscura* Walk.—*Female* similar to No. 3, but the collar is almost entirely black: there is no yellow spot on the side of the abdomen, as in No. 2 and 3; the hind thighs and tibiæ are black, except the knees: stigma sublunate, pale fuscous, black at the costa.

5. *D. unicolor* Walk.—*Male* much smaller: antennæ pale towards the apex: stigma small, black: tarsi and knees of hinder legs alone yellowish, the former fuscous at the apex.

6. *D. minuta* Walk.—*Male* similar to No. 5, but the face is variegated with ochre: there is an ochreous ring on each side the collar, and the tibiæ are ochreous, excepting the middle of the posterior pair, which is black.

7. *D. mellea* Walk.—*Male* as large as No. 2, ochreous: collar and head yellowish, both a little blackish at the base: scutellum variegated with black, and three large connected black spots on the back of the abdomen.

8. *D.?* *penetrans* Kir.—Brassy-black: abdomen bluish-black, compressed: apex truncated: aculeus subexserted.—*Linn. Trans.* 5. 109. *pl.* 4. *f.* 10, 11.

This minute insect is probably allied to the present group.

Corylus Avellana (Hazel-nut Tree), in flower, accompanies the insect.