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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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ENCYRTUS VITIS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Cynipidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Encyrtus scutellaris Dalm.*ENCYRTUS *Lat., Dalm., Curt.*—*Mira Schel.*—*Ichneumon* and *Chrysis Rossi.*

Antennæ inserted towards the lower part of the face, remote, geniculated, pilose clavate and composed of 13 joints; basal joint very long in the female, distinctly articulated with a slender scape, 2nd and 3rd minute rings, 4th elongate obtrigonal, the remainder gradually increasing in diameter and decreasing in length until they become cup-shaped, the 3 last joints being closely united, somewhat compressed and truncated at the apex (1♂); more slender in the male, basal joint shorter, anelli very indistinct, the following joint obtrigonal, the next and succeeding oblong clothed with very long hairs, the three terminal joints closely united and forming an elongate conical club (1♀).

Labrum undiscovered.

Mandibles concavo-convex, broad and thin, rounded at the apex and slightly hooked, producing a few long hairs (3).

Maxillæ small terminated by a large rounded pilose lobe with a smaller one on the inside. *Palpi* more slender than the labial, rather long and 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints of equal length subclavate, 3rd much shorter obovate, 4th the longest and stoutest, subfusiform and very pilose (4).

Mentum small oblong, subovate at the apex. *Palpi* attached to the anterior margin, approximating, rather stout, pilose and biarticulate, basal joint obovate, 2nd rather larger, ovate-conic.

Lip rather long and narrow (5).

Head broad hemispherical, concave behind. Eyes rather large but remote. Ocelli 3 in triangle situated at the back part of the crown. Collar short. Scapulæ minute. Fræna transverse, almost concealed. Scutellum large, sometimes bearded at the apex. Abdomen short, depressed, more or less ovate-conic; petiole indistinct. Wings pubescent; superior rounded, with a subcostal nervure extending to the middle where it forms a short branch into the wing; inferior rather short and narrow. Legs very dissimilar, compressed, anterior pair short: thighs long and slender in the intermediate pair: tibiæ rather broad, furnished with a spine at the apex, which in the intermediate pair is long and robust and the tibia is narrower and subclavate (8*): tarsi long, 5-jointed, basal joint the longest: pulvilli large and membranous with 2 minute claws.

Obs. The dissections are taken from a female of *E. Vitis*.VITIS *Nobis.*—*Curtis's Guide, Gen. 598, n. 1^a.**In the Cabinets of Mr. Samouelle and the Author.*

THIS singular and extensive genus is distinguished from the other Cynipidæ by the branch of the wing springing from the apex of the subcostal nervure, as well as by the long spurred intermediate legs. In this genus the form of the antennæ is

not a sure guide, for not only do they frequently vary exceedingly from the type, but those of the male are sometimes very dissimilar to the female.

Mr. Haliday, to whom I am so much indebted for his valuable contributions and information, distinguishes *Encyrtus* by its minute scapulæ and transverse fræna, almost concealed by the dorsolum. From his dissections I see that the mandibles of his *Encyrtus Coniferæ* are tridentate, and his genus *ERICYDNUS* is characterized by "compact fusiform antennæ. Wings with the subcostal nervure branched towards the apex. Abdomen beneath compressed, acuminate."

I must refer to the "Guide" for a list of the British species amounting to 28, only one of which has even been recorded by any other English writer.

1. *E. scutellaris* *Dalm.* in the Stockholm Trans. for 1820. *pl. 2. f. 57. 58. 62. and 63.*

Bred out of a Coccus found on the *Corylus Avellana*.

1^a. *E. Vitis* *Curt. Brit. Ent. pl. 395.*

Male: dull black, slightly pubescent and punctured; antennæ filiform and very pilose, terminated by a slender club; ochreous, 2nd joint and the club blackish: head with large punctures: scutellum with a tuft of hair at the apex: abdomen with the membrane at the base whitish: wings iridescent, transparent, nervures subochreous, costal one brown: legs ochreous, posterior pair compressed, blackish, inside of the thighs, tibiæ and central joints of tarsi ochreous.

Female: reddish orange, slightly pubescent and punctured: antennæ with the flagellum compressed and gradually dilated to the apex which is black, and truncated: head sparingly punctured with large shallow impressions: scutellum with a black tuft of hairs at the apex, the sides beneath brown: abdomen reddish brown: wings transparent, superior clouded with fuscous beyond the middle; nervures, a spot before the middle and the stigma brown: tibiæ, intermediate brown at the base, posterior compressed, the outer edge blackish, the tarsi brown at the base and tip.

For specimens of this insect and the following observations I am indebted to Mr. Samouelle, who bred them from the Coccus of the Vine, and has no doubt that the black one, which is much the rarest, is the male; this somewhat resembles the *E. hirticornis*, and the female the *E. Swederi* of Dalman.

"Found on the Vine in Lambeth, July 9th and 10th, 1830. These insects settle on the underside of the vine-leaves during rain, and on the upper surface when the sun shines; they are fond of door-posts, and seem to seek the heat. I also find them in the house on the windows; they leap well, at least a foot at a time: the antennæ, when the insect is active, are applied alternately to the object on which it rests."

6. *E. cyaneus* *Dalm.?* p. 160. 12.—*lunulatus* *Curt. MS.*

June and July. Bred from a bundle of cocoons attached to a leaf and covered with cottony yellow wool, like that which envelopes some spiders' eggs.

28. *E. Urocerus* *Dalm.* This, as well as a new species of Mr. Haliday's, has the ovipositor robust and exerted.

The Plant is *Cyperus fuscus*, from J. J. Bennet, Esq.