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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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## THERION AMICTUM.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Ichneumon circumflexus Linn.*THERION *Curt.*—*Anomalon Grav.*—*Ichneumon Linn.*, &c.

*Antennæ* inserted a little above the middle of the face, longer than the wings in the male, filiform, composed of innumerable quadrate joints, basal one the stoutest, 2nd minute, 3rd the longest: shorter and stouter in the female, more tapering to the apex, and the joints transverse.

*Labrum* transverse, semiorbicular, ciliated with long hairs, having a minute lobe in the centre (2).

*Mandibles* slightly curved, terminating in a strong beak, with a long but smaller tooth outside where it is hairy (3).

*Maxillæ* short, terminated by a semiorbicular ciliated lobe, with a smaller semilunate one inside. *Palpi* very long, pilose and 5-jointed, basal joint rather the shortest, 2nd the stoutest, 5th the slenderest and linear, the apex ovate (4).

*Mentum* elongate-ovate. *Palpi* shortish, pilose and 4-jointed, basal joint obovate, 2nd stout, semiobovate, 3rd somewhat hatchet-shaped, 4th the longest, slender and subfusiform. *Lip* short and bilobed (5).

Head *transverse, base very concave; face orbicular-ovate: eyes ovate, not large: ocelli 3 in triangle on the crown. Thorax rather short, thick and oval: scutel gibbose and semiorbicular or subquadrate: metathorax sloping, flat and rugose. Abdomen very long and slender, compressed, arched, clavate, carinated above, with distinct spiracles down each side: petiole long, slender, cylindric and clavate, 2nd joint slender: ovipositor short but exerted. (6 ♀, terminal segments of female; ♂ the same of male.) Wings much shorter than the body; superior with a long marginal cell, no areolet and a long narrow stigma. Legs slender, anterior short, hinder very long: trochanters, hinder very long and biarticulate: thighs simple, clavate: tibiæ clavate, spurred: tarsi, hinder with 2, 3 or 4 of the basal joints incrassated in the males; 5-jointed, basal joint the longest, terminal one slender, clavate: (8 † hind leg).*

AMICTUM *Fab.*—*Curt. Guide, Gen. 531. 114.*

*Male*, head with an acute spine in front, black as well as the thorax, thickly punctured and pubescent: antennæ very long, ferruginous, ochreous beyond the middle, basal joint yellow with a black line outside, 2nd and base of 3rd yellow beneath: face and trophi yellow: abdomen ferruginous, a faint streak of black on the petiole and a black shining stripe on the back of the 2nd; 4th and following segments fuscous beneath as well as the backs of 2 or 3 of the terminal: wings yellowish, the margins slightly fuscous, nervures brown, stigma ochreous: legs yellowish, outside of thighs and apex of tarsi ochreous: hinder legs bright ferruginous, coxæ and trochanters yellow beneath; apex of tibiæ dull black; tarsi dilated, basal joint attenuated to the base, the following ochreous, 2nd joint robust oval, 3rd but slightly thickened, 4th minute, 5th small and clavate.

THIS pretty little group is distinguished from *Paniscus* by the absence of the areolet, and from *Ophion* (pl. 600.) by its less

ample and shorter wings, as well as by a striking difference in the form of the nervures, where the areolet is situated when present, and by the thicker posterior legs, their tarsi being generally more or less incrassated in the males; but in a new species which I shall describe, and also in *T. tenuitarsum*, they are not thickened.

Having published the genus *Anomalon* before Gravenhorst's work appeared, it may appear necessary to give my reasons for rejecting some of his names in the Guide. 1st *BASSUS* of Fabricius is Gravenhorst's 3rd family of *Cryptus*, *seductorius* being the type given in the *Piezatorum*; 2ndly, Jurine's 1st family of *ANOMALON*, which of course is his type, Gravenhorst has called *BASSUS*. 3rdly Jurine's 2nd family of *Anomalon* I have called *THERION*, because it is not the typical *Anomalon*.

1. *Scutellum yellow or ferruginous.*

1. *encactor Rossi.*—*Grav. Ichn. Europ.* 3. 641. 110.

I cannot remember the localities of this species, 5. and 9.

2. *circumflexum Linn.*—*Don.* 3. *pl.* 93. *f.* 2?

Taken at Darent: I believe it has been bred from the caterpillars of *Sphinx Ligustri*.

2. *Scutellum black, rarely rufous.*

3. *amictum Fab.*—*Curt. B. E. pl.* 736 ♂. a little magnified.

For the specimen figured I am indebted to Mr. C. Lyell, who took it at Kinnordy in Forfarshire.

4. *xanthopus F.*—*Grav. p.* 652. *no.* 116. June, Darent.

5. *ruficorne Grav.* 655. *no.* 116<sup>b</sup>. 'Netley, Salop, Mr. Hope.'

6. *cerinops Grav.* 658. *no.* 118.—*flavifrons Grav. Uebers.*

I think I took it at Dover.

7. *flaveolatum Grav.* 664. *no.* 122.—*auricapillus Gmel.?*

Middle of June, Yorkshire, and Aug., Isle of Arran, J. C.

8. *tenuicorne Grav.* 671. *no.* 125.

Coomb Wood, on oaks; males in May, females in July.

9. *gracilipes Curt.* Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

*Male* ferruginous; head and thorax, a streak on the 2nd abdominal segment, and 3 apical joints black: antennæ very long and slender, brown, ferruginous beneath to the middle, face and anterior coxæ yellow: hinder with a black patch at the base, inside: wings short, nervures brown, stigma yellow: legs slender, hinder tarsi not dilated.

10. *fibulator Grav.* 681. *no.* 131.

Isle of Portland 14th May, and b. Aug. Heron Court.

11. *tenuitarsum Grav.* 683. *no.* 133.

I think it was this which Mr. Dale bred from pupæ of *Episema cæruleocephala*.

Dr. Balfour of Edinburgh obligingly communicated specimens of the Coral-rooted Boat-lip, *Corallorhiza innata*, from Ravelrig bog, where they were found growing last July.