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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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*Samolus, Samolus, fig. 1, 1854*

## ZELE ALBIDITARSUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ  
Alysiidæ Curt.

*Type of the Genus, Zele testaceator Curt.*

*ZELE Curt.*

*Antennæ* inserted at the upper part of the face between the eyes, longer than the body, setaceous and pubescent, composed of numerous joints, basal joint the stoutest, ovate-truncate, 2nd small subglobose, 3rd long, the remainder decreasing in length to the apex, the last joint conical (1, a few joints of the base and apex).

*Labrum* inserted under the clypeus, membranous, semicircular and pilose (2).

*Mandibles* closing transversely, curved and rather slender, bifid near the apex, the external tooth being the longest; externally pilose (3).

*Maxillæ* small, terminated by a large pilose lobe with a small one on the inside. *Palpi* very long, pilose and 6-jointed, basal joint short, 2nd and 3rd nearly of equal length, the latter the stoutest and very convex on the inside, the remainder slender, 4th and 6th the longest, 5th a little shorter (4).

*Mentum* obovate, pilose. *Palpi* rather long, stout pilose and 4-jointed, basal joint not short, obovate-truncate, 2nd a little longer, elongate-ovate, 3rd subglobose, 4th as long as the 2nd but narrower and subclavate. *Lip* large subcylindric, pubescent, truncated obliquely, the anterior margin notched (5).

Head rather broad. Eyes oval rather prominent. Ocelli 3 in triangle, elevated on the crown of the head. Thorax rather long and narrow. Abdomen rather short, subfusiform, striated at the base, attached by a short stout peduncle; clavate in the female and slightly compressed at the apex, and truncated obliquely, with 2 minute appendages towards the apex. Ovipositor exerted, robust, considerably shorter than the body (6). Wings very ample; iridescent, superior with 1 marginal, 3 submarginal and 2 discoidal cells, the stigma large; inferior with 2 basal, one costal and 4 external cells. Thighs simple. Tibiæ, anterior with a long spine at the apex, the others furnished with 2 long spurs. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest. Claws small; pulvilli distinct.

ALBIDITARSUS Curt. *Guide, Gen.* 551. 4.

Piceous, shining: antennæ beneath brown, the 2 basal joints ochreous: head ochreous, the whole crown piceous; eyes black: thorax inclining to castaneous, margin of scutellum ochreous: abdomen subcastaneous towards the base and apex, the base vermiculated. Wings stained yellowish brown, squamulæ pale ochre, nervures and stigma brown, the latter pale in the centre. Legs testaceous; posterior tibiæ (except at the base,) and pulvilli piceous; posterior tarsi yellowish white.

*In the Author's Cabinet.*

FROM the great resemblance these insects bear to the Braconidæ, I placed this group in my Guide between Bracon and Agathis, but it is evident from the 6-jointed maxillary palpi that it belongs to that extensive sub-family which may now be termed Alysiiidæ. The typical species are characterized by a perfect trapezoid cell on the costal margin of the inferior wings, and also by the minuteness of the 3rd joint of the labial palpi.

The following are British species, and Mr. F. Walker has several others which he found on grass in meadows at Southgate in the summer, and in the Isle of Wight in September.

\* Inferior wings with a costal cell.

3. *Z. testaceator* Curt.—4 lines long. Ochraceous, eyes and spaces between ocelli black: ovipositor fuscous, stigma yellow; posterior tarsi dirty white.

End of July, Coomb Wood and Regent's Park.

4. *Z. albiditarsus* Curt. *Brit. Ent. pl.* 415. ♂.

Taken in the Regent's Park. J. C.

\*\* Marginal cell of inferior wings wanting.

2. *Z. ochraceator* Curt. *Guide*.

5. *Z. Ehippium* Curt.—2 lines long. Bright ochre; antennæ, tips of posterior tibiæ and of the tarsi, also the ovipositor brownish: eyes and space round ocelli black: thorax reddish; a spot before, the metathorax and base of the abdomen black, nervures and stigma piceous in the male, lurid in the female.

My attention was first called to the remarkable œconomy of this species by a most accurate observer of nature, Mr. John Bolt of Lyndhurst; the cocoon is attached by a thread to a leaf as represented in the Plate, and the insect is hatched in July: it is generally found on the Hazel, on which I have taken it in Coomb Wood. I was a little surprised to find that one of the cocoons produced *Hemiteles areator* Panz.

7. *Z. pectoralis* Curt. *Guide*.      8. *Z. fulvifrons* Curt. *Guide*.

9. *Z. thoracicus* Curt.—Male  $2\frac{3}{4}$  lines: black shining, disc of thorax reddish, legs pale ochre.

July 16th Regent's Park.

\*\*\* Antennæ shorter than the body.

1. *Z. atrator* Curt.— $1\frac{3}{4}$  line. Piceous black; antennæ beneath at the base ochreous; palpi pale ochre, legs dirty ochre, base of posterior tibiæ whitish, ovipositor as long as the antennæ, wings hyaline.

I took several last September on the windows of Durnford House, Wilts, the seat of the Honourable Mrs. Robinson.

10. *Z. longicauda* Curt.—Similar to the last, but the ovipositor is twice as long, and the central submarginal cell of the upper wings is wanting.

The Plant is *Smyrnum Olusatrum* (Alexanders).