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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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Del. G. S. G. Sculp.

APHIDIUS CIRSI.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Ichneumon Aphidum Linn.*APHIDIUS Nees.—Curt. *Guide, Gen.* 547.—Hal.—Incubus Schr.—Ichneumon Linn., DeG., Geoff.

Antennæ inserted in front of the face, scarcely so long as the body, pubescent and in some thickened towards the apex composed of 11 joints (sometimes of as many as 24), basal joint longer and stouter than the 2nd which is ovate, 3rd slender longer than the 1st, the remainder gradually growing thicker, terminal joint the longest and conical. (1, the base).

Labrum undiscovered.

Mandibles subtrigonal, arched, acute, one notched near the apex, externally pilose (3).

Maxillæ terminated by a pilose lobe, with a sublanceolate one on the inside. *Palpi* composed of 4 nearly equal, moderate and pilose joints, basal joint subclavate, 2nd dilated, obovate, 3rd and 4th slender, the latter subfusiform (4).

Mentum obtrigonal. *Palpi* short, pilose, triarticulate, basal joint small, 2nd rather longer, 3rd globose-ovate. *Lip* hollow, rounded and pubescent (5).

Head transverse, the crown broad. Eyes rather small. Ocelli 3 in triangle. Prothorax short. Scutellum semioval. Abdomen attached by a short and stout petiole, convex and subfusiform in the male ovate-conic in the female. Wings pubescent and iridescent, superior with few cells, the stigma large (9), inferior nerveless. Legs slender: thighs and tibiæ of equal length simple, the latter spurred. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint considerably the longest in the hind pair.

Claws minute: pulvilli large extending beyond them (8, a fore leg).

Obs. The dissections were drawn from *A. dimidiatus* Curt.

CIRSI Curt.—*Aphidum Linn. Faun. Suec.* 410, 1643 ?

Female. Shining pitchy black. *Antennæ* thickest towards the apex, with the 2nd and 3rd joints dirty ochre: wings transparent, but faintly tinted with brown: the stigma very faint and nearly open: petiole ochreous, broad and short with a tubercle on each side at the base: abdomen short and depressed, piceous, slightly ochreous at the base and apex which is acuminate and bent down, with 2 straight diverging valves beneath (6). Legs dirty ochre, 4 posterior coxæ and thighs piceous, as well as the tibiæ, excepting at the base: tarsi dusky.

In the Cabinet of Mr. A. H. Haliday.

THESE little insects are parasitic, and live in the female Aphides: we sometimes see their horny bronzed cases sticking to the leaves of roses and other plants, with a round hole on one side and the lid frequently hanging like a door on its hinges, as represented in Harris's Exposition, tab. 18. f. 10. from these some of the little Ichneumons or their minuter

destroyers have escaped, for these again have their parasites as we learn from Geoffroy, who states that a *Cynips* destroys the larvæ of the *Ichneumon des Peuceron* (*Aphidius*), and from his description I think it may be my *Ceraphron Carpenteri* (folio 249^a No. 10), which I there stated had been bred from the *Aphides* by the late Mr. Carpenter.

I am indebted to Mr. Haliday for a valuable monograph containing 19 species of *Aphidii*; and Mr. F. Walker tells me he thinks he has about 50. It being therefore impossible to give specific characters of the whole, I shall avail myself of Mr. Haliday's paper, and give his admirable divisions.

* Wings with 3 cubital areolets (Div. 1. Nees). Radial areolet terminating at the apex. Head small, rather globose. Antennæ shorter than the body of 11 joints in both sexes. Aculeus short compressed, a little curved upwards.

** Wings with one cubital cell effuse to the margin, distinct from the anterior of the disc (Div. 3. Nees). Wings very ample, the radial areolet effuse, including the whole apex. Antennæ and legs long and extremely slender. Head small globular narrowed to the back. Palpi long and slender.

Mr. Haliday has described 4 species of the first division, and 3 of this, but has given no names, and I have none of them.

*** Wings with the anterior cell of the disc and inner cubital confluent and sometimes both together open to the margin (Div. 2. Nees). Head more transverse than in the other divisions. Radial cell terminating at the apex, its interior nervure often vanishing before the apex.

a. Valves of the aculeus compressed, straight or curved upwards, black (Antennæ longer in the males, varying in the number of joints, more numerous in the same sex: middle cell complete or open only to the exterior cubital one).

This division contains *A. Pini Hal.*, the males taken on the larch in Aug. the females on the *Pinus sylvestris* in Sept.—*infulatus Hal.* on the larch in Aug.—*pictus Curt.* on the Scotch fir, Sept.—*dimidiatus Curt.*—*Rosæ, Hal.?*—*picipes Nees*, infests the *Aphides* of *Hieracium?*—*fumatus Hal.*

b. Valves of the aculeus incurved, broad, generally securiform, pale.

† Anus beneath unarmed.

1. The middle areolet defined posteriorly.

Contains two unnamed species.

2. The middle areolet entirely effuse to the margin (species very minute).

Contains two species, and probably *A. basalis Curtis's Guide*.

†† Anus beneath in female armed with 2 diverging horns recurved at the end, longer than the aculeus which lies between them. Middle areolet effuse. Antennæ in the females of 11 joints, rather thicker towards the apex.

Contains *A. letifer Hal.*—*A. minutus Curt.*—*A. constrictus Hal.*, and another.

The insect figured may be the *I. Aphidum Linn.*: but as the specific name has been converted into one for the genus by Nees ab Esenbeck, I have given it the name of '*Cirsii*' from its being said to be parasitic on the *Aphis Cirsii*, so named from its inhabiting *Cirsium arvense Lam.*, the *Carduus arvensis* of this Work, Pl. 296.

The Plant figured is *Anemone apennina* (Mountain Anemone) from Lord Spencer's park, communicated by W. Christy, Esq.