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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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VOL. III.

DERMAPTERA. DICTYOPTERA.  
ORTHOPTERA. STREPSIPTERA.  
HYMENOPTERA, PART I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY

F. ELLIS AND CO., 92 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND

J. B. BAILLIERE, 219 REGENT STREET.

1823—1840.





*Ent. by G. M. S. F. & G. S. J. 1878*

## BASSUS CALCULATOR.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ *Lat., Leach.*

*Type of the Genus B. Calculator Fab.*

BASSUS *Fab. Ichneumon Fab., Lat., Jur., Panz.*

*Antennæ* setaceous, more slender in the males than in the females, inserted towards the top of the face, distant, many-jointed, 1st joint robust curved, 2nd small turbinate, 3rd longer than the 1st, the following decreasing in length to the apex, covered with short coarse hairs (fig. 1).

*Labrum* transverse, slightly narrowed before, with a triangular, membranaceous, hairy tongue, projecting from beneath (2).

*Mandibles* very thin coriaceous, small, somewhat elongated, acute, bifid, hairy externally (3).

*Maxillæ* membranaceous, internal lobe covered with short hair at the extremity, external lobe rounded, ciliated: *Palpi* pilose, composed of 5 long joints, 2 first joints robust, 3rd the longest, 4th and 5th slender (4).

*Mentum* nearly quadrate-elongate (5 a): *Palpi* hairy, 4-jointed, 2 first joints more robust than the two following (b): *Labium* nearly cylindric entire, divided down the middle above (c).

Head transverse, as broad as the thorax. Ocelli 3. Thorax ovate, elevated, long, somewhat attenuated anteriorly. Abdomen scarcely petiolated, not longer than the head and thorax, oblong, somewhat depressed, shining, composed of few joints in the males; more cylindric, somewhat arcuated in the females (6). Oviduct exerted, as long as the body. Wings alike in both sexes, superior with one narrow oblique marginal cell; submarginal cells 3, 1st incomplete, 2nd very minute, 3rd very large, discoidal cells 2, of nearly equal size, inferior one incomplete; stigma large; inferior wings small linear. Legs; anterior small, posterior long robust. Tibiæ spurred. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint very long, 4th minute. Claws small simple (8 a fore leg).

CALCULATOR *Fab. Ent. Syst. suppl. p. 225. n. 131. Syst. Piez. p. 98. n. 21. Calculatorius Panz. Faun. Germ. 83. tab. 13. fem.*

Black, shining. Thorax, scutellum, 4 anterior legs and trophi brick-colour: metathorax deeply punctured; basal and 2nd segments of abdomen deeply and longitudinally channelled: apex of posterior thighs ferruginous, base of posterior tibiæ dirty white. Wings very pale-fuscous, iridescent: stigma and nerves brown: anterior coxæ in the male, brick-colour.

*In the Cabinet of the Author.*

NEGLECTED as this extensive family has been, it is not to be wondered at that we are but ill-acquainted with the affinities and economy of many of the groups composing it: as every fact is therefore rendered the more valuable, I have the greater pleasure in presenting my readers with the present species, which I captured in the New Forest about a mile to the north of Lyndhurst. We were resting ourselves about noon in the early part of September 1822, whilst the sun shone very powerfully, when I observed one of these pretty insects flying over the flat surface where a tree had been felled, upon which it settled; and shortly after two others appeared. They all hovered over the block and at intervals lighted upon it, but I could not observe that the female deposited any eggs; and knowing it to be a rare insect, new to Britain, I was fearful of losing it, which prevented me from further observing its operations. I consider myself most fortunate in capturing both sexes, as the males of this family are very seldom known; and Panzer having only figured the female, the male is here represented in preference, and the body of the female is given at the bottom of the plate.

Latreille's genus *Ichneumon*, comprising most of the genera into which Fabricius had divided it (although very imperfectly), must be considered as a family, since it is impossible to include insects in the same genus so widely different as *Peltastes* (plate 4.) and our present subject, *Bassus*; and although the long exerted ovipositor gives it the appearance of a *Pimpla*, it will be found to be much more nearly allied to *Microgaster* and *Agathis*.

There are probably about 15 British species in our cabinets allied to that figured, but I think only 4 or 5 of them perfectly agree with our type, and I believe none of their names have yet been ascertained.

*Vaccinium Myrtillus* (Bilberry), growing in abundance where the insect was taken, has been selected for the plate.