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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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CRYPTUS BELLOSUS.

The Odynerus Ichneumon.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Cryptus viduatorius Fab.*CRYPTUS *Fab., Fall., Grav., Curt.*—Ichneumon *Fab.*

Antennæ inserted in the middle of the face, contiguous, often as long as the body, composed of numerous joints, stout and setaceous in the male, the joints gradually decreasing in length from the 4th; slender and curved in the female, basal joint robust and oval, 2nd and 3rd short, 4th long, the remainder decreasing in length.

Labrum nearly concealed under the clypeus, subtrigonal and ciliated with longish hairs, with an elongate-trigonal membranous lobe at the centre (2).

Mandibles short, crossing, rather thick, curved, bifid at the apex (3).

Maxilla terminated by a rounded pubescent lobe and a smaller inner one. *Palpi* long slender pubescent and 5-jointed, basal joint the shortest, clavate, 2nd long and rather stout, clavate, 3rd the longest, 4th and 5th not longer than the 2nd and slender, especially the 5th (4).

Mentum elongate-ovate, the angles excised to receive the *Palpi*, which are pubescent and 4-jointed, basal joint clavate, 2nd and 3rd short obtrigonal, 4th the longest, stoutest at the base and attenuated to the apex. *Lip* tolerably long, concave and emarginate (5).

Head *transverse*, face *concave*, *orbicular-trigonal* (1*): eyes *lateral*, *vertical*: ocelli 3 in triangle at the base of the head. Thorax *elongate-ovate*; collar *narrow*: scutellum *semioval*: metathorax with a tooth at each hinder angle. Abdomen *long and slender in the male*, *subfusiform*, petiole *clavate* (A): *stouter and more ovate in the female*, petiole *long*, depressed and very much dilated at the apex: ovipositor *exserted*, often as long as the abdomen. Wings *ample*, superior with a *quingular areolet*, marginal cell *lanceolate*. Legs: anterior the *shortest*, hinder *long and stout*: thighs, hinder the *stoutest*: tibiae *spurred at the apex*: tarsi *5-jointed*, basal joint the *longest*: claws and pulvilli *small*.

Obs. The dissections are from *Ichneumon obscurus Gmel.*? excepting fig. A, which is the abdomen of *I. titillator Linn.*?

BELLOSUS *Curt. Guide, Gen.* 499.

Female slate black, thickly and delicately punctured, 10th, 11th, and 12th joints of antennæ white above: thorax deep red; scutellum white, the surrounding sutures blackish; metathorax globose, scarcely tuberculated at the angles, with 2 transverse sutures: base of abdomen more coarsely punctured; petiole with a minute tooth on each side, 2 apical segments white, as well as the margins of the others beneath when alive: anterior tibiae and tips of thighs ochreous: wings iridescent, the posterior margins fuscous, stigma and nervures piceous.

In the Author's Cabinet.

THERE are fifty described species of this extensive genus inhabiting Great Britain which are recorded in the "Guide," and I have nearly twenty more in my own Cabinet which I cannot identify with any of Gravenhorst's. It is therefore impossible to do more here than to give his sections with an English type of each, referring to the Guide for a complete list of the species.

1. *Scutellum and abdomen black.*

21. *moschator* *Fab.*—*Grav.* 2. 451. 21.

2. *Scutellum pale, abdomen black.*

40. *viduatorius* *Fab.*—*Grav.* 2. 476. 40.

3. *Scutellum pale, abdomen with pale rings.*

No specimen has yet been discovered in Britain of this section.

4. *Scutellum with a pale spot; abdomen rufous or red and black.*

82. *albatorius* *Vill.*—*Grav.* 2. 536. 82.

5. *Scutellum black; abdomen red or red and black.*

91. *obscurus* *Gmel.*—*Grav.* 2. 548. 91.

6. *Scutellum and thorax partly rufous; abdomen red and black.*

136. *minutorius* *Fab.*—*Grav.* 2. 625. 136.

7. *Scutellum white, thorax red, abdomen black.*

144^b. *bellosus* *Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 668. ♀. The ♂ is unknown.

Two females of this beautiful insect I bred the end of last June from some dead bramble stalks that were given to me by Mr. F. Smith, with the expectation of obtaining from them the *Osmia leucomelana*, not one of which however made its appearance, but to my surprise and gratification these Crypti, and a few days after some females of *Odynerus (Epipone) lævipis*, described by Mr. Shuckard in Loudon's Magazine of Nat. Hist. issued from the sticks. The Crypti were exceedingly vivacious, not a joint of their antennæ or legs, or a segment of their abdomen being at rest, and they resisted the fumes of sulphur under a glass longer than any other insect that has come under my observation, whilst, on the contrary, the *Odyneri* were very sluggish, not attempting to unfold their wings, and were easily deprived of life.

For specimens of *Valeriana (Fedia) auricula*, gathered near Cowes in the Isle of Wight, I am indebted to Dr. Bromfield.