

6
979
3
nt.
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.

BY JOHN CURTIS, F.L.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY OF OXFORD,
OF THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF FLORENCE,
OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, ETC.

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.





Subs by J. Curtis. 1825

SMIERA MACLEANII.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Cynipidæ or Chalcididæ.

*Type of the Genus, Sphex sispes Linn.*SMIERA *Spin., Curt.*—Chalcis *Fab., Dal., Lat., Jur., Panz.*—*Sphex Linn.*

Antennæ inserted at the middle of the face, as long as the head and thorax, geniculated, 13-jointed, basal joint long and stout, 2nd and 3rd small, the former cup-shaped, the latter transverse, 4th longer than the following which decrease in length, the 3 terminal joints forming a subconical mass (1 ♂); the basal joint longer in the female and the apical mass more ovate (1 ♀).

Labrum exerted, small, transverse, the sides rounded, anterior margin ciliated with longish hairs (2).

Mandibles short, one trifid (3), the other bifid at the apex.

Maxillæ terminated by an oblique oval and ciliated lobe. *Palpi* rather long slender pilose and 4-jointed, basal and 3rd joints rather short, 2nd longer, 4th very long and subfusiform (4).

Mentum elliptic, truncate before and notched to receive the *Palpi* which are not short; triarticulate, 2nd joint a little shorter than the 1st, 3rd a little longer and pilose, subovate at the apex (5).

Head *broad and short, emarginate before, with a tooth in the middle: eyes lateral prominent and globose: ocelli 3 in triangle. Thorax ovate-truncated before; collar distinct; scutellum bidentate. Abdomen small, trigonate-ovate, compressed, attached by a long stout petiole, 7-jointed in the male (7 ♂), 8-jointed in the female: oviduct concealed beneath. Wings, superior with a few indistinct longitudinal nervures, a subcostal nervure, united with the costa at the middle and forming a small peduncled cordate stigma a little beyond it; inferior wings small. Hind legs very large, the Coxæ as long as the Thighs which are lentiform and serrated beneath; the Tibiæ scythe-shaped, pointed and acute at the apex. Tarsi 5-jointed. Claws and pulvilli small. (8, hind leg, the first joint being the Coxa.)*

MACLEANII *Curt. Guide, Gen. 653. 3.**In the Author's Cabinet.*

SMIERA is distinguished from *Eucharis* by its curved posterior tibiæ, and from *Chalcis* by the length of the petiole. I suspected from the manner in which the *S. sispes* hovers about and settles upon the rushes, that the female laid her eggs in larvæ either upon or inside the stalks, but we learn from Latreille that these insects "deposit their eggs in the nymphæ of the *Stratiomydæ* or of some other diptera, the larvæ of which live in the water."

I shall now describe the British species.

1. *S. sispes* Linn. *F. S. n.* 1657.—*clavipes* Fab.—*Panz.* 78. 15.
—*Sam. pl.* 8. *f.* 6.—*Don.* 11. 379.

Black, thickly and coarsely punctured, abdomen smooth and shining: wings pale fuscous: posterior coxæ very long and a little stouter than the peduncle: 4 anterior thighs ferruginous at the apex, the intermediate pair incrassated at the apex, hinder pair large, lenticular and rufous, black at the apex, serrated beneath, the basal tooth the largest: tarsi ferruginous, black at the tips.

As this is the Linnæan species, I have retained its original name. I am sorry to find continental naturalists superseding old established names, for the right of priority will always be respected by the true friend of science. This insect is found from June to the end of July on rushes at the back of the Red House, Battersea; Kensington Gardens; near Faversham, Kent; on umbellate flowers, Whittlesea Mere, Mr. Dale; sides of ditches, Tollsbury, Essex, J. C.

In the two following species the antennæ of the females seem to be only 12-jointed.

2. *S. Macleanii* Curt. *Brit. Ent. pl.* 472 ♀.

Black, thickly and coarsely punctured, clothed with fine pale hairs; antennæ clavate; scutellum emarginate, peduncle half the length of the abdomen, which is smooth and shining: wings stained brown, costal nervures piceous; scapulars and tips of 4 anterior thighs pale yellow, posterior minutely punctured, serrated beneath, with 2 larger teeth at the base, the external one pale yellow, as well as a sublunulate one towards the apex and a round one opposite on the inside; base of anterior tibiæ ochreous, the tips ferruginous as well as the tarsi which are brown at the apex. *Male* undiscovered.

I have named this fine insect after Dr. Maclean, of Colchester, whose zeal for science and ardour in the pursuit of knowledge have led to many discoveries that entitle him to the thanks of all lovers of Natural History. It appears to be very similar to the *C. biguttata* of Spinola and the *C. melanaris* Dalm., from which it is at once distinguished, by the 3rd spot towards the apex on the *inside* of the hinder thighs, as well as by other differences of colour. I first discovered *S. Macleanii* the end of June, settling on the rush figured, in a ditch at Tollsbury; Mr. Bennet soon after took another in company with the *S. sispes*, and Dr. Maclean captured a third.

3. *S. petiolatus* Curt.—*sispes* Fab.—*Panz.* 77. 11.

Black, thickly and coarsely punctured, scutellum slightly emarginate, petiole long, slender and yellow; body smooth and shining; a yellow spot on each side the face, scapulars of the same colour: thighs yellow, black at the base, posterior with a saddle-shaped black mark above at the base, and a brown one at the apex: tibiæ yellow, 4 anterior brown at the middle, posterior piceous except at the tip: tarsi ochreous: antennæ of male rather long stout and subfusiform, the basal joint the slenderest; short slender and clavate, I believe, in the female.

Said to have been captured in the neighbourhood of London.

This being the *C. sispes* of Fab., who very carelessly transposed the names, it is become necessary to give the species another appellation to prevent further confusion.

The Plant is *Scirpus maritimus* (Salt-marsh Club-grass).