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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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## CRÆSUS SEPTENTRIONALIS.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Tenthredinidæ Lat.

*Type of the Genus, Tenthredo septentrionalis Linn.*

CRÆSUS Leach, Curt.—Nematus Jur., Lat.—Tenthredo Linn. Fab.

*Antennæ* inserted between the eyes in front of the head, alike in both sexes, rather long setaceous pubescent and 9-jointed, basal joint short, 2nd cup-shaped, the remainder long but decreasing in length to the apex (1).

*Labrum* exerted, transverse, pilose and ciliated, sides rounded, anterior margin slightly convex (2).

*Mandibles* small, robust, elongate-trigonal, acute, with a tooth on the inside below the apex (3).

*Maxillæ* elongated, corneous at the base (4 a), dilated above, the internal margin pubescent with a tooth at the apex (c), terminal lobe membranous and subovate. *Palpi* long, pubescent and 6-jointed, basal joint obovate, 2nd elongated, 3rd longer and stouter, 4th and 5th the longest, 6th shorter, slender and filiform (b).

*Mentum* quadrate, dilated and emarginate before (5 a). *Palpi* pubescent, composed of 4 joints of nearly equal length, basal joint clavate, 3rd the stoutest and bent, 4th elliptic-conic (b). *Lip* membranous, trilobed, external ones large, subhemispherical, striated and pubescent externally, central lobe narrow and spatulate (c).

Males smaller than the females. *Clypeus* transverse, emarginate. Head transverse, face orbicular: eyes oval: ocelli 3 on the crown. Thorax subglobose. Abdomen sessile, short ovate-conic: oviduct concealed. Superior wings with 1 marginal and 4 submarginal cells, the 1st small, almost round, 2nd large and receiving 2 recurrent nerves, 3rd small quadrate. Legs, hinder the largest in both sexes: tibiæ with spurs at the apex, longest in the hinder pair which are much dilated: tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint very much dilated in the hinder pair and subelliptic, the other joints very short: claws bifid: pulvilli distinct. (8, a fore leg.)

Larvæ attenuated behind, with 6 pectoral, 12 abdominal and 2 anal feet. Pupa inclosed in a cocoon in the earth.

SEPTENTRIONALIS Linn.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 471. 1.

*Male* black, base of antennæ, excepting the 2 first joints, brown: abdomen rufous, except the 2 basal segments: superior wings yellowish beyond the middle where there is a faint brown cloud; stigma brown: legs rufous-ochre, hinder coxæ black, the apex as well as the trochanters whitish: tips of hinder thighs black, posterior tibiæ and tarsi pitchy, the former white at the base. *Female*, antennæ and apex of abdomen black: thighs black, apex of anterior ochreous; tibiæ and tarsi ochreous, base of the former whitish, hinder tibiæ and tarsi black, base of the former white, the spurs ochreous.

*In the Author's and other Cabinets.*

THE insects of this family may be easily known by their perfectly sessile abdomens, by their peculiar oviduct formed of 2 serrated lamellæ, and by their ample wings of many cells. Many of them feign death when alarmed and bend down their heads and antennæ so forcibly as to show the membrane that connects the thorax.

The larvæ of this family bear a strong resemblance to those of the Lepidoptera, but they have more abdominal or false feet, they feed upon the leaves of plants, are very sensitive, and have a peculiar manner of rolling themselves up, when touched, like a convoluted shell.

The present genus was separated from *Nematus* by Dr. Leach in the 3rd vol. of the Zool. Misc. in a paper upon the external characters of the Tenthredinidæ: the hinder legs, dilated in both sexes, indicate a different mode of life from the other *Nemati* and are probably useful in flight.

When the first edition of this work was published, only one species of *Croesus* was known, but in the 1st vol. of the "Annales de la Soc. Ent. de France" M. Foulgues de Villaret has described 3 new species, 2 of which are supposed by Mr. Stephens to be British.

1. septentrionalis. *Linn. Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 17. ♀.

This was formerly considered a rare insect, being taken occasionally at Darent-wood Kent, in Norfolk, near Lyndhurst, &c. in June, but it now sometimes appears in abundance. Mr. C. Parsons observed the larvæ near Southend feeding on the hazel; they agreed with the figure in our plate copied from the Ent. Mag., but did not change to flies till July. Mr. C. J. Paget found the larvæ on willows in a meadow near Great Yarmouth the end of August; they were small but "in such numbers," he says in his letter, "that some trees are perfectly bare: I never observed a more extensive blight: there are literally thousands in this meadow alone." I took a female at Bungay in Suffolk several years since.

2. varus? *De Vill. Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr.* 1. 306. *pl.* 11. *f.* 8. ♂.

Palpi and clypeus white: abdomen black, middle of the 2nd segment and the following to the 7th ferruginous: 4 anterior legs pale ferruginous, hinder thighs ferruginous tipped with black: wings unclouded: expanse 9 lines.

Beginning of June, Birch-wood. *Ste.*

3. latierus *De Vill. v.* 1. *p.* 307. *pl.* 11. *f.* 7. ♀.

Palpi reddish, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th segments of abdomen ferruginous: legs black, tips of anterior thighs ferruginous, anterior tibiæ and tarsi reddish white, intermediate pitchy, base of the former whitish: superior wings with a fuscous cloud: expanse one inch.

Said to have been taken near London.

I think it very probable that Mr. Stephens's specimens are merely varieties of the male and female of *C. septentrionalis*.

The Plant is *Crepis tectorum*, Smooth Hawk's-beard.