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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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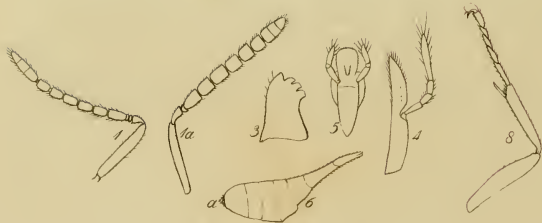
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## COLAS DISPAR.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Cynipidæ *Lat., Leach.**Type of the Genus Colas dispar Nob.*COLAS *Nob.*—*Cleonymus Lat.*—*Pteromalus Dal.*—*Diplolepis Fab.*—*Ichneumon Linn., Fab.*

*Antennæ* of the male longer than the head, geniculated, inserted in the middle of the face; 13-jointed, pilose, basal joint long, 2nd small cup-shaped, 3rd and 4th like rings, the 6 following cylindric, decreasing in length, the remainder forming a long, indistinctly articulated conic compressed club (fig. 1):—of the female longer than the head, geniculated, pubescent, 12-jointed, basal joint long, 2nd short clavate, 3rd very minute, 6 following subquadrate, decreasing in length, the remainder forming a conical mass (1 a).

*Labrum* not discovered.*Mandibles* subquadrate, one with 3, the other with 4 teeth (3).

*Maxillæ* long, terminated by a single concave lobe, coriaceous and hairy externally, membranous and ciliated internally. *Palpi* rather long and slender pilose 4-jointed, basal joint rather longer than the 2nd and 3rd which are of equal length, 4th long subfusiform, slightly produced at the insertion of the bristles (4).

*Mentum* obconic. *Lip* rather long, rounded, ciliated. *Palpi* as long as the lip, 3-jointed, 2nd joint very minute, terminal one elongate-conic, pilose at the apex (5).

Head transverse much larger in the male than female. Ocelli 3. Thorax transverse, not so broad as the head. Scutellum rounded. Abdomen short, depressed, spatulate in the males; long attenuated to the apex, angulated beneath in profile in the females (6, a, the base). Oviduct concealed. Wings as long or longer than the body in the males, pubescent, ciliated, transparent; superior with a nervure running from the base parallel to the costa, not so far as the half, whence it is continued along that margin, and becomes furcate before arriving at the apex. Legs slender. Coccæ; posterior large. Thighs nearly straight. Tibiæ simple with a single spine at the apex. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest, terminal most robust. Claws hooked. Pulvilli large (8, a fore leg).

DISPAR *Nob.*

*Male.* Head and thorax bright bluish green, minutely punctured. Eyes fuscous. Antennæ ochraceous. Abdomen metallic green, subcupreous at the base, with a large ochraceous spot above the middle. Wings iridescent, nervures pale ochre. Coccæ green at the base. Legs ochraceous: apex of tarsi and pulvilli fuscous. *Female.* Head and thorax dull bluish green. Eyes dull castaneous. Antennæ fuscous, basal joint ochraceous. Abdomen chalybeous, sometimes inclining to green, blackish towards the middle and near the apex. Coccæ green. Legs ochraceous; thighs green except at their extremities; tibiæ brownish at the base, apex of tarsi fuscous.

*In the Author's Cabinet.*

WE believe the group under investigation has been united by Dalman with the *Pteromali*, a genus of Latreille's allied to *Perilampus*; but *Colas* is nearer, perhaps closely allied to *Cleonymus* of the latter author which embraces those species with clouded wings, truncated antennæ, the abdomens of the females being similarly shaped to ours, but longer; from being unacquainted with their males, we cannot at present enter further upon the subject. From other genera of the same family, the one before us seems to be sufficiently distinct, and easily distinguished when the sexes are known. The authority on which we give the two insects in the plate as sexes of the same species, is tolerably satisfactory; but so far from wishing that it should be received as conclusive, we would invite those who are interested in the subject to pay attention to the lepidopterous *Chrysalides* producing these pretty insects, which will enable them to supply invaluable information upon a family whose economy is highly interesting and but imperfectly understood.

In the 136th plate of this work the caterpillar of *Acronycta Salicis* is given; and from one of these (which spun itself up in a web, but died before it became a pupa, in consequence of its being inoculated by these parasites) we obtained, the beginning of the following June, about half a dozen males and twice as many females; and amongst 10 or 12 more species of this genus, few of which appear to be described, is a pair that I took last September upon the *Achillea Millefolium*, in the Isle of Wight, not differing in form but essentially in colour.

*Colas* is derived from the Greek, and alludes to the parasitic economy of this group; and the specific name of *dispar* is characteristic of the disparity of the sexes.

Our insects were inhabitants of the Trossacks, and specimens of the plant figured, *Viola lutea* (a variety of the yellow Mountain Pansy), were tolerably abundant on the north and east sides of Schichallien the beginning of July.