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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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## CYNIPS NERVOSA.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Diplolepidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Cynips Quercus radicis Fab.*CYNIPS Linn., *Fab.*, *Curt.*

*Antennæ* inserted in a cavity in front of the face, longer than the body in the males (1 ♂), subsetaceous, pubescent, and 15-jointed, basal joint the stoutest, short and ovate, 2nd the smallest ovate, 3rd the longest, suddenly bent and slightly emarginate towards the apex, 4th shorter and linear, the remainder decreasing in size to the last joint, which is slightly longer than the penultimate; not longer than the body, slightly clavate and 14-jointed in the females (♀), 3rd joint the longest but simple, 4th and 5th linear, 6th stouter and shorter, the remainder subtriginate, apical joint a little longer, ovate-conic. In some species there are only 13 joints.

*Labrum* undiscovered.*Mandibles* broad, subtriginate, terminating in a strong tooth, with a trigonate tooth next it, and sometimes a third inside (3).*Maxillæ* terminated by a double ovate hairy lobe. *Palpi* rather long, hairy and 5-jointed, basal joint minute, 2nd long slender and clavate, 3rd and 4th oblong, 5th the stoutest, elongate, semiovate, the apex being truncated obliquely (4).*Mentum* elongated, narrow, a little dilated anteriorly, forming shoulders for the insertion of the *Palpi*, which are short stout and biarticulate, basal joint the longest, 2nd ovate-conic.*Obs.* there is an indistinct suture giving an appearance of a central joint, which is fully developed I believe in some species.*Labium* moderate, hollow rounded and pubescent (5).

Head short transverse; face suborbicular: eyes small, lateral and ovate: ocelli forming a large depressed triangle on the crown. Thorax gibbose, ovate, collar very short: scutellum semiovate. Abdomen smaller than the thorax, especially in the male, ovate compressed and truncated obliquely, attached by a short thick petiole, basal joint large, apical ones very short: oviduct slender and curved, attached above near the apex, and emerging through a sheath below and 2 large clavate ones above. Wings, superior very much longer than the body, with a large subtriginate marginal cell, discoidal cells incomplete, but occasionally with a triangular areolet, costal nervure none (9): inferior rather small, with 2 basal nervures. Legs strong, hinder the longest: coxæ, hinder incrassated: tibiæ simple, with minute spurs at the apex: tarsi rather long, slender, and 5-jointed: claws and pulvilli small. *Obs.* the antennæ are drawn from *C. megaptera* Panz.

NERVOSA *Curt. Guide, Gen.* 564. 4.

*Female* black shining, obscurely punctured and slightly pubescent; antennæ 14-jointed, as long as the body, 2 basal joints brownish: ocelli very large: postscutellum rugose with 3 parallel ridges: abdomen very smooth and ochreous, the lower sheath brown: wings pale fuscous, iridescent, nervures brown, edges of marginal cell suffused; anterior legs pale ochreous, intermediate brown, hinder piceous, base of all the thighs darker, apical joint of tarsi fuscous.

*In the Author's Cabinet.*

THIS group of insects, called Gall-nut flies, deposits its eggs in the leaves, buds, stalks, and even in the roots of plants, thereby forming the various and curious galls which are commonly found upon the oak and other trees, rose bushes, &c. One of them, *C. Gallæ-tinctoriæ*, is the origin of the Oak-gall in Asia Minor, which is employed in making ink, dyeing, &c., and another, there is little doubt, is the author of the bitter apples alluded to in the Old Testament. Protected as the larvæ are in the heart of a hard ball, they are not secure from the attacks of other Hymenoptera, which by means of their ovipositors are enabled to pierce the galls, and lay their eggs in the tender larvæ, so that instead of the *Cynips* alone, a tenfold greater number of *Callimome* (fol. 552.) and *Ichneumonidæ* often issue with them from the galls.

The abdomen of a female that I dissected was filled with eggs; the oviduct was attached near the superior angle and curved vertically towards the base, and was exerted under or between the laminæ at a short distance from the ventral sheath. Roesel has given figures of the Galls, larvæ, pupæ and imago in pl. 35, 36, 52 and 55 of vol. iii. The following species from my collection seem to be undescribed.

4. *nervosa* Curt. Brit. Ent. pl. 688 ♀.

July, Dover. It is distinguished from *C. Rosæ* by the large ocelli, carinated scutel, dark hind legs, the absence of the brown splash on the costa of the upper wings, and of the areolet.

5. *brevicornis* Curt. Guide. Fem. black, shining; abdomen bright ferruginous; legs bright ochreous, tips of tarsi fuscous; mandibles and antennæ ferruginous, the latter brownish towards the apex, not much longer than the head and thorax, 13-jointed, terminal joint the longest: length  $1\frac{1}{3}$  line. Dover.

12. *pallidicornis* Curt. Shining piceous; antennæ mouth and legs ochreous, the former shorter than the body, subclavate, 13-jointed, 3rd joint the longest:  $\frac{3}{4}$  long.

17. *Anthracina* Curt. Fem. black, head minutely punctured; abdomen piceous, beneath paler, legs lurid ochre, tips of tarsi brown, antennæ shorter than the body, subclavate, 15-jointed, brown, 2 basal joints ochreous, 3rd the longest, wings long, transverse nervures of wings suffused yellowish-brown:  $1\frac{1}{3}$  long. May, Coomb Wood.

26. *crassicornis* Curt. Head and thorax black and punctured, abdomen shining piceous: antennæ as long as the body, 15-jointed, ochreous, apex brown, 3rd joint the stoutest and longest; legs piceous, anterior ochreous, base of thighs, outside of tibiæ and tips of tarsi piceous; wings with faint nervures:  $\frac{3}{4}$  long.

27. *fulviceps* Curt. Shining black, head and legs bright ochre; antennæ longer than the body, fuscous, base ochreous, 2 basal joints ovate, 3rd slender, scarcely longer than the following, wings very ample:  $\frac{3}{4}$  long. Bred from female Aphides by the late Mr. T. Carpenter.

32. *pedestris* Curt. Shining piceous; head large and black; legs and antennæ ochreous, the latter fuscous beyond the middle, as long as the body, 14-jointed, 2 basal joints stout ovate, 3rd a little longer: thighs brownish at the base, tips of tarsi fuscous; wings rudimentary:  $\frac{1}{2}$  a line long. Southgate, Mr. Walker, and also No. 26.

For Mr. Walker's characters of Sections consult the 3rd vol. of the Ent. Mag.

The Plant is *Conium maculatum*, Common Hemlock.