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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.

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.

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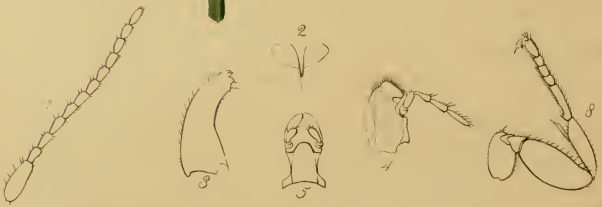
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Drawn by J. C. Clark, Dec 1 1850

BETHYLUS FULVICORNIS.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Proctotrupidæ.

Type of the Genus, Bethylus punctatus Lat.

BETHYLUS *Lat., Fab., Nees, Curt.*—*Ceraphron Panz.*—*Omalus Jur.*
Antennæ straight, slightly tapering, not remote, inserted at the base of the clypeus, shorter than the thorax, pubescent and a little pilose, 12-jointed, basal joint very stout, elongate-ovate, 2nd oblong, slenderer than the following which are compressed, a little thickened to the middle and tapering again to the apex (1).

Labrum a semicircular membrane, inserted under the clypeus, with a long horny lobe in the middle and a seta at the apex (2).

Mandibles exerted, meeting, rather large and curved, the apex semicylindric and truncated, with 3 or 4 small teeth (3).

Maxillæ short and broad, terminated by an oblique oval ciliated lobe. *Palpi* not long, filiform and 5-jointed, basal joint somewhat cup-shaped, 2nd the stoutest, oblong, 3rd and 4th the same length, a little clavate, 5th a trifle longer, elliptic-conic (4).

Mentum corset-shaped, the basal angles produced, the centre convex, the anterior angles excised to receive the *Palpi*, which are short and biarticulate, basal joint cup-shaped, 2nd large clavate and pilose at the apex. *Lip* almost as large as the mentum, hollow and fleshy, the sides conniving (5).

Head *ovate or orbicular-quadrate, depressed but convex*: eyes *lateral, ovate*: ocelli 3, placed in triangle at the base of the head. Thorax rather long and narrow: prothorax short, narrowed before: scutel conical trigonate: metathorax ovate, rugose at the base. Abdomen not longer than the thorax but broader, ovate-conic, the base with a short broad petiole, 2nd segment the largest, the apex furnished with a fleshy oviduct. Wings, superior with a costal nervure divided at the middle and forming a short narrow cell, closed by a small stigma, which emits a curved nervure not touching the costa, 2 long basal cells, lower one the shortest, with a pale line running to the extremity and an oblique indented one at its base: inferior with only 2 short basal nervures. Legs, hinder a little the longest: thighs stoutish, compressed: tibiæ narrowed at the base, with 1 spine at the apex: tarsi as long as the tibiæ, 5-jointed, basal joint long, 3 following very short in the anterior, 5th short and stout; claws short, stout and hooked at the base: pulvilli large.

FULVICORNIS *Curt. Guide, Gen.* 579.

In the Author's Cabinet.

I MUST confess that after great pains I am unable to satisfy myself as to the affinities of *Bethylus*, but I believe it to be most nearly allied to *Ceraphron*, fol. 249. Latreille places it amongst his *Proctotrupii* in the *Gen. Crust.*, and says the antennæ are 13-jointed in both sexes, that the maxillary palpi are 6-jointed, and the labial 3- or 4-jointed; in his *Fam. Nat.*

he includes it in his tribe Oxyuri, under the same section as Dryinus. Nees ab Essenbeck says the antennæ are 14-jointed in the males, that the maxillary palpi are 6- and the labial 4-jointed. Jurine considers the antennæ to be 13-jointed in one sex and 12-jointed in the other. Now it is very remarkable that none of my specimens agree with any of the above characters, the antennæ being all 12-jointed, and the palpi 5- and 2-jointed; how these incongruities are to be reconciled I know not. There are as great differences of opinion respecting the species; for whilst some describe several, others view them as mere varieties: from the different situations in which I have found them, and from the variety of colour in their antennæ and legs, I shall distinguish them as species. Mr. Haliday has ascertained that the Bethyli secrete the larvæ of Lepidoptera in broken reeds which occur on sand-hills, for the purpose, it is presumed, of supporting their larvæ. The perfect insects are much attached to Syngenesious flowers, shallows, roses, grasses, &c. I must not omit to observe, that *Epyris* cannot be included with the *Bethyli*.

1. *cenopterus* *Panz.* 81. 14. "Base of antennæ and legs fuscous-testaceous: wings opaque, somewhat nerveless: 1 line."
2. *punctatus* *Lat. Hist. Nat.* 13. 229. "Second and a few following joints of antennæ, and apex of tibiæ and tarsi fulvous: superior wings obscure, with a fine white nervure trifid at its extremity."

April, off rushes on the beach at Covehithe, Suffolk; June, off a hedge near Windsor, and in Yorkshire.

3. *fuscicornis* *Jur. tab.* 13, *Gen.* 43. "Black, flagellum of antennæ, tibiæ, and tarsi testaceous: $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 lines."

Off bushes Coomb Wood and Shooter's Hill in June.

4. *fulvicornis* *Curt. B. E. pl.* 720. Black, shining: very minutely shagreened, with a few scattered punctures, excepting the abdomen, which is very glossy, with a slight chalybeous tinge: head with an elevated longitudinal ridge between the antennæ, which are bright ochreous, as well as the mandibles: superior wings yellowish, with a large yellowish-brown space beyond the middle, through which runs a white line, nervures and stigma brown, 2 basal cells perfect: inferior wings iridescent: legs ochreous, anterior thighs with a brown patch above, the others piceous as well as their tibiæ, excepting the base and apex; tips of tarsi and claws brown.

August, on sand-hills, Sandwich, on the coarse grass, and in pits not uncommon.

5. *formicarius* *Panz.* 97. 16. "Black, middle of antennæ, tibiæ, and tarsi pale, stigma obsolete: $1\frac{1}{2}$ line."

August, Scotland.

6. *Syngenesiæ* *Hal.* Wings short.

The plant is *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Wild Chervil.