

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

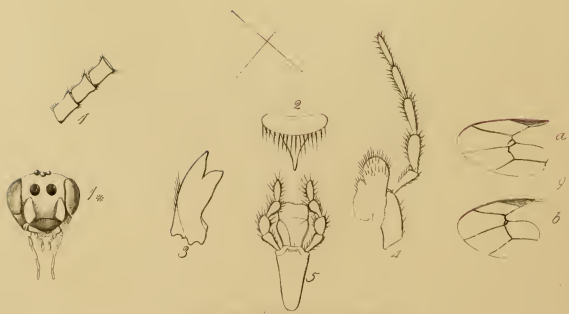
F. ELLIS AND CO., 92 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND

J. B. BAILLIERE, 219 REGENT STREET.

1823—1840.





MESOLEPTUS WALTONI.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

Type of the Genus, Mesoleptus lævigatus Grav.

MESOLEPTUS Grav., Curt.—Ichneumon, Bassus, Cryptus Fab.

Antennæ almost as long as the body, slender, slightly thickened between the base and apex, inserted a little above the middle of the face, rather remote, composed of 30 joints and upwards, basal joint stout, 2nd somewhat cup-shaped, 3rd the longest, 4th oblong, the remainder decreasing in length to the apical joint which is ovate-conic (1).

Labrum concealed beneath the clypeus, transverse, the anterior margin convex and ciliated with long bristles, having a membranous pubescent trigonate lobe beneath (2).

Mandibles folding transversely, rather stout and cleft at the apex, forming 2 subtrigonal teeth (3).

Maxillæ terminated by an ovate bristly lobe. *Palpi* long pubescent pilose and composed of 5 nearly equal joints, basal joint elongated and clavate, 2nd a little longer and incrassated, 3rd as long but not so stout, the following rather more slender (4).

Mentum long, gradually tapering to the base. *Lip* long and broad. *Palpi* stout, longer than the lip, pubescent, bristly and 4-jointed, basal joint clavate, 2nd stout trapezate, 3rd pear-shaped, 4th subfusiform (5).

Head transverse, face orbicular: eyes lateral ovate: ocelli 3 in a triangle on the crown of the head. Trunk long and narrow: scutellum semioval: metathorax elongated, with elevated lines and a small tooth on each side of the apex. Abdomen long depressed and clavate; the petiole long slender and tuberculated on the sides: ovipositor slightly exerted. Wings with an oblique somewhat ovate areolet (9). Legs, hinder the longest and stoutest: coxæ hinder long and stout: tibiæ spurred at the apex: tarsi long and 5-jointed, basal joint long, 4th and 5th very short: claws and pulvilli minute.

Obs. The dissections are taken from the species figured.

WALTONI Curt. Guide, Gen. 491. 57^b.

Black; antennæ with the joints vertebrae, the anterior margins bristly (1), 3rd and a few succeeding joints fulvous; 2 vertical ovate spots below the antennæ, palpi and mandibles yellow, apex of the latter ferruginous (1* the face): petiole long slender and channelled, dilated at the apex which is ferruginous, 3 following joints rufous; areolet minute ovate oblique with a long peduncle (9 b), nervures costa and stigma brown; a portion of the latter ochreous; 4 anterior legs excepting the coxæ and trochanters testaceous, apical joint of tarsi brown, hinder tibiæ and tarsi brown, the former ferruginous at the base.

In the Author's Cabinet.

MESOLEPTUS is a group detached from *Tryphon* by Gravenhorst: it contains 70 or 80 species, and about 50 have been detected in this country. It is distinguished from *Tryphon* by its long and slender petiole, and the areolet is generally of a

different form; the labium is longer and not deeply notched, and the joints of the labial palpi appear to be differently proportioned. It must however be remembered that there are numerous modifications in this genus; in some species the antennæ are much shorter than the body, in others longer and capillary: the petiole varies much in the length, and is often considerably dilated at the apex; the abdomen is more or less clavate, the ovipositor rarely visible from above; the areolet is frequently trigonate and sometimes wanting, and the hinder legs are rarely thickened.

I shall give Gravenhorst's sections, although perhaps much more natural ones might be obtained from the proportions of the petiole, if not from the areolet and the metathorax.

1. *Scutellum and abdomen black.*

7^b. *ventralis Curt.* Male: Antennæ shorter than the body: areolet small trigonate petiolated: black silky shining: trophi, 2 spots on the face, 2 basal joints of antennæ beneath, scapulæ and legs yellow; coxæ black, trochanters spotted with black, thighs and tibiæ ochreous, hinder thighs and inside of tibiæ at the apex piceous as well as the tarsi except at their base, anterior tarsi with the apex and base of each joint dusky; abdomen sublinear, yellow beneath except at the base and apex, 2 dots at the base of the 2nd and 3rd segments as well as the margin of the latter pellucid ferruginous. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines long.

2. *Scutellum with a pale spot; segments frequently with pale margins.*

10^b. *gracilipes Curt.* Antennæ slender, longer than the body: areolet oblique-ovate: testaceous, slender, head black, face trophi and scapulars yellow, a spot on each side of the collar and scutel and also the metathorax brown: abdomen subfusiform and ferruginous, petiole black, 2nd segment and sides of the following piceous: tips of hinder thighs and tibiæ and of all the tarsi brown. 3 lines.

I took a male near Lanark in September.

3. *Scutellum pale or rufous; abdomen entirely rufous, or red and black.*

23^b. *speciosus Curt.* Antennæ much longer than the body: areolet none: black, 2 basal joints of antennæ beneath, face, trophi, underside of thorax, legs, scapulæ, margin of collar, 2 hooked streaks on the thorax and scutel excepting the tip bright yellow; metathorax with a foveolet at the base: abdomen ovate-clavate, ferruginous, petiole black, broad at the apex, hinder legs ferruginous, coxæ and trochanters yellow, hinder tibiæ brown, their apex and tarsi black. $3\frac{1}{4}$ lines.

A male found in Coomb-wood the 7th of May.

4. *Scutellum black; abdomen rufous or red and black.*

57^b. *Waltoni Curt. Brit. Ent. pl. 644 ♂.* This insect is remarkable for its curious antennæ, which resemble the vertebræ of some reptiles, and the areolet is exceedingly minute.

I have the pleasure of dedicating this new species to my friend John Walton, Esq., to whose exertions this work is greatly indebted for many of the rare and beautiful plants that have ornamented the recent volumes: three specimens were taken by the river Nidd at Knaresborough in June, and also in the neighbourhood of Settle in Yorkshire.

The Plant is *Dryas octopetala*, Mountain Avens, from Arncliffe.