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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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## DRYINUS CURSOR.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Proctotrupidæ *Nob.* Oxyuri *Lat.*

*Type of the Genus Dryinus formicarius Lat.*

DRYINUS *Lat., Leach.*—Gonatopus *Klug.*

*Antennæ* remote, slightly geniculated and clavate, pilose, inserted between the eyes at the base of the nasus, 10-jointed, basal joint long, subclavate, 4 following increasing in diameter, the 3d joint being a little the longest, 5th the shortest, the 6th and remainder turbinate, robust, of equal length, excepting the terminal joint which is conical and longer (1).

*Labrum* undetected.

*Mandibles* remote, quadridentate, externally pilose (3).

*Maxillæ* small, terminated by a pilose lobe, scarcely cleft. *Palpi* very long and slender, 6-jointed, basal joint small, 2d twice as large, the remainder nearly of equal length, being rather long slender and pilose (4).

*Mentum* long, dilated anteriorly. *Labium* very small, concealed.

*Palpi* remote, short, triarticulate, basal joint short, 2d the largest, 3d not larger than the 1st, rhomboidal (5).

Head subtrigonate. Eyes large. Ocelli 3, in triangle. Thorax not broader than the head, the prothorax sometimes elongated. Abdomen not larger than the thorax, peduncled, conical and acuminate. Wings iridescent, pubescent, superior with a costal and marginal cell, the nervure of the latter from the angle sometimes indistinct, 2 nervures running from the base to the apex intersected transversely before the middle; stigma large; inferior wings nerveless, lobed at the base (9). Legs long. Thighs incrassated, especially the anterior in some and attenuated to the apex. Tibiæ spurred, anterior short. Tarsi long 5-jointed, anterior with the basal and terminal joints long of equal length, the latter being robust, producing at the base a horny lobe, the analogue of a 2d claw, extending to the 2d joint, the 3 intermediate small (8): basal joint the longest in the other feet. Claws; anterior feet with one only, which is very long, reflexed and slightly produced towards the base. Pulvilli porrected and very long (8); the other feet with 2 small claws very much dilated at the base and a large Pulvillus (8 b, hind foot).

Obs. The above description is from *D. Cursor*, the following from *D. bicolor*. Apterous like a neuter ant. Head very large. Ocelli very minute. Thorax very long slender, binodate. Abdomen 6-jointed (6). Tibiæ, anterior long, the Tarsi 4-jointed, basal and terminal joints long, intermediate very short. Claws 2, very long and unequal, spined internally. Pulvilli large (8 a fore foot).

CURSOR *Hal. MSS.*

Black, shining, slightly pubescent. Antennæ slightly ferruginous at the base. Head and metathorax dull, the former minutely, the latter coarsely punctured. Legs ochraceous. Thighs, tibiæ and basal joint of tarsi of 4 posterior legs piceous. Wings hyaline, slightly stained yellow; nervures and stigma ochreous.

*In the Cabinets of Mr. Haliday and the Author.*

NATURE, ever fertile in her resources, having dispensed with one claw in the anterior feet of the males (at least in the species of which there were duplicates to examine),—to supply the deficiency, has produced the base of the terminal joint exactly as if a second claw was bent back as in the apterous sex, and soldered to that joint; it would appear therefore that the means of capturing their prey are curtailed; but the power to retain it is probably increased. Like the genus *Proctotrupes*, the abdomens are acuminated, which give them all the appearance of females.

The following species (with the exception of the first and last) were taken by Mr. Haliday in Downshire near the Bay of Belfast, “on grass in open groves and the adjacent meadows, from the 4th of June to the middle of August. When in the net they ran with uncommon activity, the chelate ungues remaining reflected on the tarsus.”

A. Prothorax elongated.

1. *D. formicarius* Lat. H. N. 13. 228.—*Gen. Crust. t. 12. f. 6.*  
—The female has been taken I believe at Ripley, Surrey, in Aug.

B. Prothorax short. 1. Legs of nearly equal size.

2. *D. Cursor* Brit. Ent. pl. 206.

3. *D. rapax* Hal. MSS.—The size of *D. Cursor*. Black, shining, antennæ and legs ferruginous-ochre, the former long and black in the middle, the apex of the posterior thighs as well as of the intermediate and posterior tarsi black; stigma and nervures ochreous.

4. *D. lucidus* Hal. MSS.—Smaller than the last; black shining; antennæ not longer than the thorax, fuscous except at the base, which is ochreous, as well as the legs, the posterior thighs fuscous at their apex; nerves of the wings very obscure.

2. Anterior legs incrassated.

5. *D. crassimanus* Hal. MSS.—Like *D. rapax*, but more robust, the antennæ shorter.

6. *D. fulviventris* Hal. MSS.—The size of *D. lucidus*; black, abdomen fuscous-ochre, black at the base, and a dark spot towards the apex; antennæ and legs yellowish piceous, apex of the former ochreous, the posterior thighs dark at their tips, 4 posterior tarsi and stigma dirty yellowish white.

7. *D. bicolor* Hal. MSS.—Apterous, black, prothorax pale and dirty ochre, anterior margin brown; antennæ at their base and legs pale ochreous fuscous, anterior thighs at their base, middle thighs beneath, a stripe on the anterior tibiæ and the apex of the 4 posterior tarsi piceous. Taken in moss on a bank in Ireland, April 1826.

I cannot conclude without acknowledging my obligations to Mr. Haliday for the handsome manner in which he has allowed me to be the medium of communicating his valuable researches, as well as for his liberality in supplying me with specimens to illustrate this remarkable genus.

*Carduus acaulis* (Dwarf Thistle) is figured in the plate.