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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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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.





designed by J. Curtis. Aug. 1830

## MESOCHORUS SERICANS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Mesochorus splendidulus Grav.*

MESOCHORUS Grav., Curt.

*Antennæ* as long as the insect, slender, filiform and pubescent, inserted in a cavity towards the middle of the face, composed of about 40 joints, basal joint the stoutest, 2nd ovate, 3rd minute, 4th long, the remainder rapidly decreasing in length, the apical joints small and ovate (1\*a).

*Labrum* small, semicircular and ciliated with bristles, with a fleshy pubescent, triangular lobe somewhat acuminate at the apex (2).

*Mandibles* small, curved, bifid at the apex (3).

*Maxillæ* terminated by two rounded lobes, the superior very pilose. *Palpi* very long, pilose and 5-jointed, basal joint clavate, a little the shortest, 2nd dilated internally, the remainder slender and linear, the 3rd being the longest (4).

*Mentum* somewhat obovate. *Lip* small, semicylindric, slightly emarginate and pubescent. *Palpi* rather long, pilose and 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints nearly of equal length, the latter dilated internally, 3rd and 4th longer and clavate, the latter the slenderest (5).

Head *short and transverse, face orbicular* (1\*): eyes *elliptical*: ocelli 3. Thorax *not broader than the head, gibbose, ovate*: scutellum *subtriangular or semiovalate*. Abdomen *attached by rather a long petiole, fusiform slightly convex clavate in profile, scarcely so broad as the thorax, furnished at the apex in the male with 2 rigid and attenuated spines* (7): ovipositor *exserted rather stout and longer than the style in the male* (6). Wings, superior, *with the stigma rather small, the marginal cell not large and conical, areolet large and rhomboidal with a short pedicel*: inferior *sometimes with the lower nervure furcate towards the anal angle*. Legs *not short*. Thighs, *posterior the stoutest*. Tibiæ *spurred at the apex*. Tarsi *5-jointed, basal joint the longest*. Claws and Pulvilli *small*.

SERICANS Haliday's MSS.—Curt. Guide, Gen. 508.

*In the Cabinet of Mr. Haliday.*

THE large rhomboidal areolet, connected with the lower nervure of the marginal cell by a short pedicel, and the large curved internal cubital cell, are good characters to identify the Mesochori; and the males of this pretty genus are distinguished by two slender spines at the apex of the abdomen.

Mr. Haliday has observed to me, in a letter, that this genus affords two strongly-marked divisions,—

I. With the interior brachial cell of the lower wings emitting a single nervure from its inner angle.

1. *M. Tipularius* Grav. 2. 964. 332.—*Curt. Guide*, 508. 332.  
In larch plantations, Galway, Mr. Haliday.
2. *M. splendidulus* Grav.—Very rare at Belfast, but common in Galway.
3. *M. olerum* Hal.—Length  $1\frac{3}{4}$  line. Black, lower part of face, orbit of eyes, posterior margin of 2nd segment of the abdomen, a spot at the base of the 3rd, and the legs, ochreous : tips of posterior tibiæ and tarsi fuscous.  
Found on turnips by Mr. Haliday.
4. *M. fulgurans* Hal.—Length  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lines. Ochreous, tips of antennæ and eyes dark : abdomen ferruginous-ochre : stigma pallid.  
Taken in shady ravines in Ireland.
5. *M. basalis* Curt.—Length 3 lines. Ochreous ; eyes, crown of head, 3 spots on the thorax, postscutellum, base of abdomen (excepting the posterior margin of the 2nd segment), and a spot on each side the 3rd segment, black : base and tips of posterior tibiæ black.  
New Forest, on stumps of trees in shady groves, beginning of June.
6. *M. Sylvarum* Hal.—Length 3 lines. Black, orbit of eyes and mouth pale yellow, mesothorax and scutellum ferruginous, the former with 3 black spots, and a brownish spot sometimes on the back of the abdomen. Legs ochreous, tips of tarsi fuscous.  
Abundant on trees in hedge-rows, particularly ash and oak, Mr. Haliday.

II. Interior brachial cell of the lower wings emitting 2 nervures from its inner angle.

7. *M. sericans* Hal.—*Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 464. ♂.  
Black, with a dull blueish bloom, and clothed with pale pubescence ; face and mouth yellow, underside of antennæ ochreous-brown, an ochreous dot at the angles of the basal joint of the body, and a scutiform spot on the margin of the 2nd, and the base of the 3rd of the same colour ; the posterior margin of the latter and the tip of the abdomen ochreous : wings stained yellow, the nervures and stigma pale brown : legs ochreous, thighs reddish, tips of the posterior and of their tibiæ blackish ; posterior tarsi brown, the others brown only at their tips.  
Taken by Mr. Haliday, I believe, near Belfast.
8. *M. Splenium* Curt.—Length  $2\frac{2}{3}$  lines. *Male* pale ochreous ; head black, face yellowish-white, antennæ fuscous, except at the base ; alitrunk black, scutellum bright ochre ; abdomen with the base of the 1st joint and sides of 2nd black, sides of the remainder, and a considerable portion of the apex and the styles, brown : centre of stigma pale ochre ; nervures, tips of posterior tibiæ, pulvilli and claws brown.  
This pretty species I took in the New Forest.

Mr. Haliday has at least twenty-six very distinct species of this genus.

The Plant is *Cuscuta Epithymum* (Less Dodder).