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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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CHELONUS WESMAELII.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Ichneumon oculator Fab.*CHELONUS *Jur., Panz., Nees, Wesm., Curt.*—*Sigalphus Lat.*

Antennæ inserted near the top of the face, approximating, scarcely so long as the body and 28-jointed in the male; not longer than the thorax and 24-jointed in the female, rather stout and tapering very much at the apex, basal joint long and stout, 2nd subglobose, 3rd nearly as long as the 1st, the remainder decreasing and becoming turbinate towards the apex (1, a few joints).

Labrum inserted under the clypeus, sublunate, the anterior margin straight and pilose, with a large membranous lobe beneath, projecting beyond the labrum (2).

Mandibles rather small, trigonate, hairy and bifid (3).

Maxillæ terminated by an obovate coriaceous lobe, and a smaller internal membranous one, both ciliated. *Palpi* long, slender, pubescent, pilose and 6-jointed, basal joint the shortest, clavate, 2nd longer and stouter, 3rd the stoutest, long and clavate, 4th a little the longest, slender and nearly linear, 5th and 6th shorter and slender (4).

Mentum elongated, ovate at the base. *Lip* moderately long, hollow. *Palpi* not short, pubescent, pilose and 4-jointed, basal joint elongate-clavate, 2nd as long and stouter, 3rd short, stout, obovate, 4th as long as the 1st, slender, apex conical (5).

Head *transverse, base concave, face suborbicular*: eyes rather small, lateral, ovate and pubescent: ocelli 3, forming a compact triangle on the crown. Thorax *subglobose or oblong*: scutell triangular: metathorax *rugose, and toothed at the angles*. Abdomen *elongate-ovate, clavate (A), the basal joints united and forming a rough shield, the sides and apex inclosing a deep cavity beneath like a wooden shoe*: oviduct short, arising from a trigonate valve and not projecting beyond the apex (0). Wings *ample, superior with 1 marginal, 3 submarginal and 1 discoidal cell*. Legs *moderate*: thighs and tibiæ short, the latter more or less clavate and spurred: tarsi slender and 5-jointed: claws and pulvilli distinct.

WESMAELII *Curt. Guide, Gen. 556.*

THIS group of insects, rendered remarkable by the absence of abdominal segments, is thus characterized by Nees ab Esenbeck in his *Hymen. Ichn. affin. v. 1.* "Labial palpi 4-jointed: mandibles bifid: abdomen covered with a cuirass, the 3 basal segments united." Wesmael in his *Mon. des Bracon. de Belg.* has divided this group into other genera, which I have adopted in my "Guide," and shall here give his definitions. Besides the following 13 indigenous species there are 10 others recorded.

546^b. RHITIGASTER *Wesm.* *Abdomen with the cuirass composed of 3 segments: radial cell elongate: 3 cubital cells, 2nd elongate-quadrate.*

1. Irrorator *Fab.*—*De Geer, 1. p. 577. tab. 36. f. 12. 13.*

The larva lives upon the Caterpillars of *Noct.* (*Acronycta*) *Psi*, not *N. pyramidea*.

546^c. ASCOGASTER *Wesm.* *Eyes smooth: a subtrigonal radial and 3 cubital cells, the 1st separated from the external discoidal cell by a distinct nervure.*

* The cuirass in 3 distinct pieces: entirely open beneath.

1. *rufescens* *Lat.*—*dentator* *Panz.* 88. 14.

14th Aug. off rushes, Stilton Fen, Mr. Dale.

** The cuirass of one piece, the sides bent under the body.

2. *Consobrinus* *Curt. G. 1st edit. no. 10.* Slender like *A. rufipes*.

Black; antennæ 33-jointed, brown, underside at base, trophi and legs ochreous, hinder legs with the coxæ blackish at the base; apex of thighs of tibiæ and tips of all the tarsi fuscous: metathorax 4-toothed: wings brownish on the disc, with a white transverse line, stigma and nervures pale brown: length $1\frac{3}{4}$ line.

3. *pallidicornis* *Curt. Guide, 1st edit. no. 6.*

Blackish; antennæ 32-jointed, underside ochreous to the middle: thorax 4-toothed: legs ochreous, coxæ, underside of anterior thighs and the whole of the others, excepting the extreme base and apex, terminal portion of hinder tibiæ and all the tarsi, pale piceous: in stature and wings like No. 2.

4. *quadridentatus* *Wesm.* June, Shotover near Oxford.

5. *varipes* *Wesm.* & 6. *instabilis* *Wesm.* I possess.

7. *fulviventris* *Curt. Guide, 1st edit. no. 9.* is I believe only a var. of *A. instabilis*, with the back of the abdomen subferruginous, the apex fuscous, the underside entirely ochreous.

8. *Esenbeckii* *Curt.*—*pulchellus* *Guide, 1st edit. no. 8.*

Black, head large, palpi fuscous; antennæ very long, of 39 joints, tapering greatly to the apex, basal portion ferruginous, 1st joint piceous above: thorax bidentate: abdomen ochreous, a dot at the base, a line across the middle, and the apical portion brown: wings fuscous, basal half white, with the nervures ochreous: legs black, tips of anterior thighs and all the tibiæ, except the apex of the hinder, bright ochreous: $2\frac{1}{4}$ lines.

July, off grass in meadows, Glanville's Wootton, Mr. Dale.

I have named it in honour of the Professor to whose able works both entomologists and botanists are so greatly indebted.

556. CHELONUS. Vide the characters on the preceding page.

1. *oculator* *Fab.*—*Panz.* 72. 3. Common on umbellate flowers, grass, sedges in ditches from July to September.

7. *Wesmaelii* *Curt.* Black, pubescent, head punctured, trophi ochreous; antennæ setaceous, as long as the body and 34-jointed; thorax strongly reticulated, metathorax with 2 short teeth at the angles: abdomen reticulated, orange, with a triangular black spot at the base, nearly reaching a black dorsal stripe, arising from the apex, which is black: wings fuscous with a white horseshoe line round the stigma, which is brown as well as the nervures: legs bright ochreous, coxæ and trochanters piceous, tips of hinder thighs, tibiæ, and all the tarsi, except the basal joint, fuscous.

This male I took at Tollsbury the end of July, and have named it after the Professor whose monograph has essentially assisted me in the investigation of this tribe.

8. *basalis* *Curt.* Black, minutely punctured, pubescent: antennæ 16-jointed; metathorax bituberculate, with 2 carinæ down the back, slightly toothed at the apex: base of abdomen ochreous: wings slightly fuscous; stigma large and darker: legs black, tips of anterior thighs, tibiæ and base only of hinder ochreous: not 1 line long.

For this species I am indebted to F. Walker, Esq.

The Plant is *Carex remota*, from T. C. Heysham, Esq.