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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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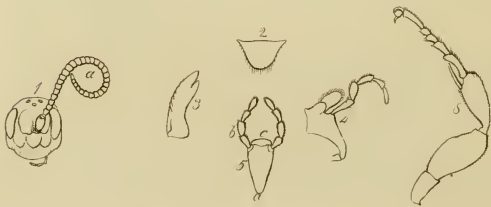
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*Andrena*

## ALOMYA VICTOR.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ *Lat., Leach.*

*Type of the Genus Ichneumon debellator Fab.*

ALOMYA *Panz., Fallen.*—*Cryptus Fab.*—*Ichneumon Linn., Fab., Lat., Jur.*

*Antennæ* inserted below the centre of the face in deep foveæ, approximating, subfiliform, convolute, pubescent, shorter than the head and thorax, composed of upwards of 30 joints, basal joint robust, 2nd small transverse, remainder more or less transverse, excepting the last, which is conic (fig. 1 a).

*Labrum* obtrigonal, rounded and ciliated anteriorly (2).

*Mandibles* large, strong, bent, bifid (3).

*Maxillæ* small membranous, with 2 lobes, external extending beyond the internal and ciliated. *Palpi* long pubescent, 5-jointed, basal joint the longest, 2nd robust, 3 following of nearly equal length and more slender (4).

*Mentum* elongate trigonate (5 a). *Palpi* long, pubescent, composed of 4 joints of nearly equal length, of which the 1st and 2nd are the most robust (b). *Lip* very short and obscure (c).

*Clypeus* broad short. Head orbicular, cheeks projecting. Eyes small ovate, placed in the middle of each side. Ocelli 3 (1, front view of head). Thorax elongate ovate. Metathorax not cancellated, rounded with a spiracle on each side. Abdomen elongated, ovate, convex, petiole short slender incurved. Oviduct not exerted? Wings shorter than the body, the 2nd submarginal, cell small quinquangular. Legs short, posterior the longest. Coxæ anterior long. Thighs short robust. Tibiæ, 4 anterior very short, 1st pair having one spine at the extremity, the remainder 2. Tarsi much longer than the tibiæ, 5-jointed, basal joint the longest, 4th the shortest. Claws simple. Pulvilli distinct (8, a fore leg).

VICTOR *nobis.*

Black, shining, punctured, slightly pubescent. *Antennæ* ferruginous, 1st and 2nd joints black, terminal portion fuscous. Abdomen ferruginous, the 2 last joints and the posterior margin of the antepenultimate black. Wings pubescent, slightly iridescent, stained fuscous, nervures brown, stigma ferruginous. Trochanters and thighs ferruginous at the apex. Tibiæ and tarsi ferruginous, the former pale in the middle.

*In the Cabinet of the Author.*

THE vast number of species contained in *Ichneumonidæ*, together with the difficulty of seizing distinctive characters, has either caused this family to be totally neglected or but imperfectly understood in most countries, but in none more so than in our own, where the Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, with the exception of the Tenthredoens and Bees, have entirely engaged the attention of the entomologist till within the last few years; by which means not less than 600 species have been confused under the title of Ichneumon, instead of taking advantage of the improvements suggested by our neighbours, which, however imperfect, must form the basis for a more complete division and natural arrangement of this family.

Had Fabricius, who first divided the *Ichneumonidæ* into genera, done it with that care and attention which so difficult a task required, there is no doubt but Latreille would have gone further than he has done into the investigation of them; but the Fabrician system is so perfectly artificial, that the author of it himself could not follow it without making "confusion worse confounded," as is evident from a slight view of the genera in his last work.

Difficult as the task is, and unequal as we must acknowledge ourselves to perform it, we can only promise to lend our aid by separating groups as opportunities may offer, thereby lessening the mass that at present is nearly unmanageable, which will we hope enable those, who have better opportunities and more leisure than ourselves for studying this family, to accomplish an undertaking so absolutely necessary to a knowledge of the Hymenoptera.

*Alomya* was first established by Panzer, and has been adopted by Fallen: yet we are so imperfectly acquainted with the sexes, that Jurine and Fallen are at issue respecting them: there are, however, characters which are so evident, that we can recognize the genus at first sight, viz. the comparatively short wings, the long and convex body, the very short thighs and tibiæ, the globose head, and the short and curled antennæ, composed of fewer joints than in most of the genera.

These insects do not appear to fly much; they are generally found running amongst moss and grass, for which purpose their short and strong legs are well adapted. *A. debellator* has been found in Norfolk. *A. victor* I found last summer near Dunkeld; its red petiole distinguishes it from the former insect, which has a black one. We have 2 or 3 other species that are unnamed.

The plant figured, *Trientalis europæa* (Chickweed Wintergreen,) was found at the same time.