

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.





253
Painted by J. Curtis London July 1. 1824.

XYELA PUSILLA.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Xiphydriidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Xyela pusilla Dalm.*XYELA Dalm., *St. Farg., Curt.*—*Pinicola Bréb.*—*Mastigocerus Klug.*

Antennæ inserted in front of the face, at the base of the clypeus, remote, longer than the head and thorax especially in the male, geniculated, slightly pubescent, 12-jointed, 3 basal joints stout, 1st elongated, cylindric, 2nd shorter, obconic, 3rd very long, stout and cylindric, equal in length to the 9 following, which are slender and filiform, the apical joint minute (1).

Labrum membranous, transverse, narrowed before, margin entire and ciliated (2).

Mandibles corneous, slightly curved, with 3 irregular teeth on the internal margin, the lower tooth dilated and forming a lobe in one (3).

Maxillæ small, bilobed; internal lobe subovate, hairy at the apex; the other hairy outside, with a smaller lobe at the apex.

Palpi very long, stout and 4-jointed, basal joint short, curved, 2nd thrice as long, bent and clavate, 3rd very long, inflated towards the base, attenuated to the apex which is very slender, and terminates in a little cup, whence arises the 4th joint which is as long as the 2nd, strap-shaped and membranous (4).

Mentum obtrigonate-truncate. *Lip* obsolete. *Palpi* longish, clavate, pubescent, 4-jointed, 1st and 3rd joints short, 2nd twice as long, 4th large, somewhat ovate and inclining inward (5).

Head *transverse-ovate*: eyes *lateral, large and oval, not prominent*: ocelli 3 *in triangle on the crown*. Thorax *not broader than the head, orbicular*; collar *short*. Abdomen *sessile, short, somewhat elongate-ovate, the apex narrowed and scutiform in the male, terminated by an exerted ovipositor in the female as long as the abdomen (6 underside)*: lateral lobes (7 a) *lanceolate, compressed, pubescent outside, inclosing a sword-shaped membranous Oviduct, corneous down the centre (b)*. Wings *large, superior with 18 cells, 3 marginal and 4 submarginal*; stigma *large*: inferior *notched at the anal angle*; with many cells. Legs *moderate*: thighs *stoutish*: tibiæ, *anterior with a long spine at the apex, the others with slender spurs, intermediate with 1, posterior with 2 bristles, near the middle*: tarsi *as long or longer than the tibiæ, 5-jointed, basal joint long, 4th the shortest*: claws *slender curved*: pulvilli *distinct*.

Eggs *somewhat oval*. Metamorphoses *and economy unknown*.

PUSILLA Dalm.—*Curt. Guide, Gen. 478. 1.*

Female black, shining: clypeus and eyes margined with yellow: thorax with 2 yellow or orange spots before: abdomen piceous: ovipositor, trophi and legs ochraceous, thighs dusky, tips of tarsi black: antennæ piceous, subcastaneous at the base: wings pale yellowish, stigma and nervures darker. *Male* with the 3 basal joints of antennæ ferruginous: head yellow, crown and front piceous, with 2 yellow stripes at the base and a piceous long spot on the face: a lunate yellow mark behind the collar and a yellow spot near the scutel.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Dale, the Author, &c.

XYELA, which so perfectly connects the Tenthredinidæ with the Siricidæ or Uroceridæ, evidently belongs to the family Xiphydriidæ of Leach, although Dalman, in his valuable paper upon this genus in the Stockholm Transactions, and subsequently in the "Analecta Entomologica," considers that it belongs to the Uroceridæ: but the ample wings and large stigma bear considerable affinity to the genus Lyda, pl. 381, whilst it cannot be denied that the exerted and compressed oviduct brings it close to Xiphydria. Dalman has overlooked the twelfth joint of the antennæ, which is the smallest, and also one of the joints of the labial palpi; the former he describes as eleven-jointed, and the latter as triarticulate. Although the conformation of Xyela is altogether remarkable, no part is, I think, more curious than the maxillary palpi, which look like a little pair of feet attached to the insect; and from the legs being placed far behind, it is not improbable that the palpi may occasionally be employed like those members to support itself; the 2nd and 3rd joints are hollow, which may enable the insect to fold them close for protection, and the terminal joint is perfectly flexible.

Of this rare and interesting insect I took three females in 1811, upon umbelliferous plants in the vicinity of fir-trees in Norfolk, where those trees are abundant; it has been taken at Southgate, by Mr. F. Walker, amongst grass, the middle of May, and by Mr. Newman, off the spruce-fir in Birchwood, the middle of April. The male I had never seen when the first edition of this folio was published; but Mr. Dale has since enriched my cabinet with both sexes, which he found at Stafford, and also on a birch-tree on Knighton heath the 3rd of May. It appears to be not uncommon in Sweden, on young Scotch firs, during the month of July; but there is another species named *X. longula*, discovered by Gyllenhal, and described by Dalman, which is much rarer; it is two or three times as large as *X. pusilla*, with a piceous ovipositor.

Chærophyllyum sylvestre, Wild Chervil, being the umbelliferous plant upon which I believe my specimens were found; it is figured in the plate.