

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.





OPHION VENTRICOSUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera.

FAM. Ichneumonidæ.

*Type of the Genus, Ichneumon luteus Linn.*OPHION *Fab., Grav., Curt.*—*Anomalon Jur.*—*Ichneumon Linn.*

Antennæ inserted above the middle of the face, remote, nearly as long as the insect, very slender, the apex somewhat curved in the female, composed of numerous joints, basal one a little the stoutest.

Labrum inserted under the clypeus, subtrigonal, arched at the base, with the angle produced, the apex acuminate, the sides convex and hairy (2).

Mandibles curved, convex, strongly bifid at the apex (3).

Maxilla short with an oval fleshy internal lobe and a larger rounded and hairy external one. *Palpi* long pilose and 5-jointed, 2 basal joints elongated, stout and clavate, the remainder slender, 3rd the longest, 4th and 5th a little shorter, the latter conical at the apex (4).

Mentum obovate-truncate, the angles emarginate to receive the *Palpi* which are much shorter than the maxillary, pilose and 4-jointed, first 3 joints somewhat pear-shaped and nearly equal in length, 4th longer slender, conical at the apex. *Lip* rather large and deeply notched in the middle (5).

Head short and broad: face transverse-ovate. Eyes large, vertical and reniform: ocelli large and very prominent, forming a triangle on the crown (1* the face, the 2 dark spots showing the sockets of the antennæ and above them the ocelli). Thorax ovate gibbose: scutellum semiorbicular and convex, the sides compressed. Abdomen carinated, falcated, clavate and compressed at the apex, attached by a long slender clavate petiole, the apex truncated obliquely, the last joint a little acuminate above and deeply notched on the side, with 2 slender styles under the apex, an incurved hook in the centre and 2 broad vertical lobes at the bottom, meeting at the apex (6 ♂): deeper in the female (6 ♀), with 2 small styles as in the male and a cleft one that is parallel and 2 lobes somewhat erected at the middle, with a groove reaching from the apex into the 6th segment, inclosing the aculeus or oviduct (o). Wings ample extending to the apex of the abdomen; superior with a long marginal cell, not reaching the apex, the internal cubital cell very long, semilunate, the apex being elongated, without an areolet, the inner nervure of the discoidal cell very much curved, sometimes angulated, with a small branch. Legs long and slender: tibiæ with long spurs at the apex, anterior with one spine: tarsi long slender and 5-jointed, basal joint very long, 4th the shortest: claws and pulvilli distinct.

VENTRICOSUS *Grav.*—*Curt. Guide, Gen. 532. 141.*

Ochreous with a reddish tinge, eyes, crown of head, and a line a little way down the face black, a line on the fore part of the thorax, the entire underside, metathorax and 6 spots inside the hinder coxæ black; apex of abdomen silky piceous; wings yellowish, stigma ochreous, nervures brown; antennæ orange, especially in the male.

In the Author's and other Cabinets.

THE sexes of *Ophion* are rather difficult to distinguish, for even the abdominal appendages are very similar; but an oblique suture, in which the oviduct is secreted, distinguishes the females: this oviduct is short and rigid, being well fitted for puncturing the skins of larvæ in order to deposit the eggs; and from its acuteness and horny substance it seems to be equally well adapted for defence.

It has struck me as very remarkable that one often can obtain only one sex of *Ophion* from an infested larva, although a considerable number may be hatched: having observed this several times it can scarcely be accidental; I am therefore rather inclined to think that one sex appears before the other, and that the eggs of each are deposited separately in different Caterpillars.

The following are British species, 2 of which are unrecorded natives.

1. *O. luteus* Linn.—Schæff. *Icon. t. 1. f. 10.*

“Testaceous, eyes fuscous; interior nervure of the radial cell straight: *male* 6—9, *fem.* 4—9 lines.”

The maggots are said to infest the larvæ of *Noctua præcox* (pl. 539.), but I have always obtained the fly from the pupæ of *Cerura Vinula*; the female I have found in May, and I took a small pair the middle of last October flying amongst heath in the neighbourhood of Heron Court.

2. *merdarius* Grav. v. 3. p. 698. n^o. 138.

“Testaceous, eyes fuscous, interior cell bipunctate in both sexes: 6 to 10 lines long.” Grav.

I have taken it in Norfolk.

3. *ramidulus* Linn.

“Testaceous, apex of abdomen black; interior cell bipunctate in both sexes: 6 to 10 lines.” Grav.

I took a specimen in Darent Wood, I believe.

4. *ventricosus* Grav.—Curt. *B. E. pl.* 600, the male a little magnified.

“Rufous, apex of abdomen, pectus and metathorax black or maculated with black: *male* $4\frac{1}{3}$ — $7\frac{1}{4}$ lines, *fem.* $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$.” Grav.

Beginning of June near Oxford.

5. *marginatus* Jur. *tab.* 8. *f.* 4.

“Rufous, apex and base of abdomen, also suture of the thorax black: 7—10 lines.” Grav.

May and June, amongst pine trees.

The Plant is *Heracleum Sphondylium* (Common Cow Parsnep).