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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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Plate by J. Curtis May 1830

## PLATYGASTER BOSCHII.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Proctotrupidæ Nob.  
Oxyuri Lat.

*Type of the Genus, Scelio ruficornis Lat.*

PLATYGASTER Lat., Curt.—Scelio Lat.—Ichneumon Kirby—Psilus Jur.

*Antennæ* inserted close to the base of the clypeus, as long as the thorax, geniculated, 10-jointed, basal joint very long and rather robust, 2nd and 3rd of equal length, the former oval, the latter oblong, 4th shorter, 5th and 6th small cup-shaped, the remainder forming a distinctly articulated club, 7th joint cup-shaped, 8th and 9th subquadrate, 10th subovate (1).

*Labrum* undiscovered.

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

*Maxillæ* with the basal portion large scutiform and corneous, terminated by a membranous ovate lobe, thickened and rather pilose externally. *Palpi* inserted at the base of the lobe and extending a little beyond it, linear and biarticulate; basal joint short, 2nd considerably longer producing 2 bristles at the apex (4).

*Mentum* obconic, terminated by a broad membranous *Labium*, at the base of which on each side rise the *Palpi*, they are short and formed of one elongate-ovate joint, furnished with one or two bristles (5).

Head *transverse, suborbicular, concave behind. Eyes lateral and not very prominent. Ocelli 3. Thorax subovate. Scutellum mucronate, or obtuse and tuberculiform. Abdomen somewhat depressed, spatuliform, considerably narrowed at the base, sometimes acute at the apex; composed of 6 or 7 joints, the 2nd being more than equal in size to the remainder. Wings without nervures, or at most with a short subcostal one. Legs generally slender. Thighs clavate. Tibiæ clavate and spurred at the apex; anterior with a curved membranous and bifid spine at the apex. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint long. Pulvilli as long or longer than the Claws (8).*

Obs. *All the dissections were drawn from P. Boschii.*

BOSCHII Jur. Hym. p. 318. Curtis's Guide, Gen. 585. n. 16.

Black smooth and shining. *Antennæ* with the 2nd joint brown. Head hollow on the crown. *Ocelli* remote. Thorax ovate. *Scutellum* obtuse. Abdomen very glossy, ovate-lanceolate (6), with a long horn (b) produced at the base and curved over the thorax as far as the head, upon which it can rest, striated, especially towards the base (a), 2nd joint flat in the centre and channelled at the base and on the sides which are thickened. Wings very pubescent and iridescent, superior with a short nervure at the base, not touching the costa, clubbed at the apex. Base and apex of the tibiæ and the tarsi subferruginous.

*In the Author's and other Cabinets.*

THE injury done to the wheat in 1795 by the *Tipula Tritici* (*Cecidomyia* B. E. 178) led to some valuable and interesting observations published in the Linnean Transactions, whence we learn that one, if not more, species of *Platygaster* are destined to prevent the too extensive increase of the *Tipulæ*. As it would be impossible to do justice to Mr. Kirby's remarks without transcribing the whole of his papers, we shall recommend the perusal of them as well to the agriculturalist as to the naturalist and philosopher.

Mr. Walker has captured 50 species of this genus, and Mr. Haliday has favoured me with the loan of his collection, and proposes the following divisions.

I. Scutellum produced or mucronated.

1. *P. filicornis* Hal. MSS.
2. *P. Phragmitis* Schr. *Ins. Aust.* p. 321. n. 647. Inhabits the panicles of *Arundo Phragmites*.
3. *P. ruficornis* Lat. *Hist. Nat.* v. 13. p. 227.
4. *P. velutinus* Hal.
5. *P. hyemalis* Curt.—Taken out of moss found in Coombwood, the first week of January, by Mr. A. Mathews. It is rather larger than *P. Tipulæ*; the tips of the thighs, tibiæ and tarsi (excepting the fore legs) and antennæ are black.
6. *P. Tritici* Hal.
7. *P. Tipulæ* Linn. *Trans.* v. 4. 232. & 5. 108. tab. 4. f. 8 & 9. On grass in June, and on the glumes of the wheat in July, when it deposits its eggs in the larvæ of *Cecidomyia Tritici*.

II. Scutellum obtuse, tuberculiform.

8. *P. inserens* Kirby, Linn. *Trans.* v. 5. p. 107. tab. 4. f. 4—7.—June 7th, depositing eggs in the valvules of the corolla of the wheat, and when they hatch, attaching themselves probably to the larvæ of *C. Tritici*.
9. *P. anthracinus* Curt. *Guide*.
10. *P. unicolor* Curt. *Guide*.
11. *P. brunnipes* Curt. *Guide*.
12. *P. consobrinus* Curt. *Guide*.
13. *P. obscurus* Walk. MSS.
14. *P. attenuatus* Hal. MSS.
15. *P. elongatus* Hal.—June and July, on grass at Southgate.
16. *P. inermis* Hal.
17. *P. niger* Hal.
18. *P. Boscii* Jur.—Curtis.—This remarkable insect is supposed by Mr. Haliday to be the female, and he suspects that the males have no horns. Mr. Walker takes it from June to August amongst grass in woods at Southgate; it also inhabits umbellate flowers.

The plant is *Triticum* (*Agropyrum* Beauv.) *repeus*, var. (Couch-grass).