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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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## XYLONOMUS PILICORNIS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Ichneumonidæ Lat.

*Type of the Genus, Ichneumon irrigator Fab.*

XYLONOMUS Grav., Curt.—Bassus and Ichneumon Fab.

*Antennæ* nearly as long as the body in the *males*, filiform, rugose and very pubescent beneath, composed of about 26 joints; basal joint robust, 2nd minute, 3rd long, 4th longer, the remainder gradually decreasing in length to the end, the apical joint elongate-conic (1 ♂): shorter in the *female*, pubescent, slightly thickened and curved at the apex; composed of many joints, basal one subglobose, 2nd minute, 3rd and 5th succeeding long, 5 following shorter, the remainder more or less cup-shaped, several producing slender spines nearly at right angles, terminal joint long and conical (1 ♀).

*Labrum* transverse-oval, the basal angles produced; a fleshy lobe projecting from beneath, semicircular and densely pilose (2).

*Mandibles* short, subtrigonal, very broad at the base, internally concave with a fascicle of hair on each side towards the apex (3).

*Maxillæ* short and broad, internal lobe oval and clothed with short pubescence, external a little larger, broader and very pilose.

*Palpi* very long and pubescent, pilose on the inside, 5-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints robust, subclavate, the latter a little the largest, the remainder slender, the 3rd very long, 4th not longer than the 1st, 5th as long as the 3rd (4).

*Mentum* subobovate, truncated before, a little dilated where the *Palpi* are attached, these are stout, very hairy and 4-jointed, basal joint subclavate, 2nd and 3rd subtrigonal, the latter the smallest, 4th as large as the basal joint, ovate-conic. *Lip* forming 2 spreading lobes (5).

Head subglobose. Eyes not very prominent. Ocelli 3 in triangle.

Thorax elongate-oval: postscutellum bidentate. Wings having no areolet (9). Abdomen sessile, slightly depressed, generally rugose at the base, with two elevated longitudinal lines on the 2 basal joints; slender and somewhat elliptical-conic in the male (7), basal joint tuberculated on the sides, 3rd and 4th at the base, the former being the largest: broader and subfusiform in the female: ovipositor nearly or quite as long as the abdomen. Legs, anterior small, posterior long and rather stout: tibiæ suddenly narrowed at the base in the females, with a transverse groove: tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest.

Obs. The dissections are taken from *X. pilicornis* and the trophi from a female.

PILICORNIS Grav. Ichn. Eur. v. 3. p. 833. n. 9.—Curtis's Guide, Gen. 541. n. 9.

*In the Cabinets of Mr. Davis and the Author.*

*XYLONOMUS* of Gravenhorst is distinguished from *Xorides* of Latreille by the abdomen being broader at its base, and scabrous instead of smooth.

The *Xylonomi* are so called from their inhabiting wood, and like most others that reside in timber in the larva state they vary greatly in size in the same species. In fine weather the females run over the surface of paling and trees perforated by bees and other insects, and investigate the holes with their antennæ in order to ascertain if they contain any larvæ; but I have never seen this rare insect deposit its eggs.

Gravenhorst neither mentions the singular base of the tibiæ in the females, nor the curious spines towards the apex of their antennæ, which in the only male I have examined are nearly straight, filiform, and very pilose on the underside.

Two species appear to inhabit Britain, neither of which has been figured.

1. *X. pilicornis* Grav.—*Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 353. *fem.*

*Male* black, slightly pubescent, head sparingly, thorax very thickly punctured; postscutellum rugose: abdomen rugose, smooth towards the apex, 2nd and 3rd joints rufous: stigma and nervures piceous, the former white at the base: palpi pale fuscous; anterior legs ochreous, posterior rufous; trochanters, coxæ and base of thighs black, hinder tibiæ and tarsi brown, the former subochreous at the base and tip. *Female* with the 12th and 3 following joints of the antennæ whitish: abdomen rufous, blackish at the apex: ovipositor longer than the body, black, oviduct rufous: legs rufous, trochanters and coxæ black, 4 anterior legs variegated with fuscous, hinder tibiæ and all the tarsi brown.

I first discovered a male of this insect many years since in Coomb-wood, on the 8th of June, and I took a female the 20th of last May on a rail near Hampstead. The fine female figured (which is much larger than mine) was taken by my friend Mr. Davis, I believe near Gravesend.

2. *X. Gravenhorstii* Curtis.

*Male* undiscovered. *Female* 4 lines long, aculeus 2 lines. Distinguished from the last by its short antennæ and ovipositor, and by its more slender form; the base and tip only of the abdomen are black; it is smooth, not rugose, and the longitudinal lines at the base are scarcely visible.

I have taken two females of this nondescript near London, and have dedicated it to the distinguished Professor whose elaborate work has enabled me to study this curious and extensive family, of which I possess upwards of 400 British species.

The plant is *Briza minor* (Small Quake-grass), found near Poole, Dorsetshire, by the Hon. C. A. Harris.