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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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ORYSSUS CORONATUS.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Siricidæ *Curt.*, Uroceridæ *Lat.*

Type of the Genus, Oryssus coronatus Fab.

ORYSSUS *Lat.*, *Fab.*, *Jur.*, *Leach*, *Curt.*—*Sphex Scopoli.*—*Sirex Panz.*

Antennæ inserted beneath the clypeus, at the base of the mandibles, shorter than the head and thorax, curved, compressed and 11-jointed in the males, "2nd and 3rd joints obconic, the former very short, the latter longer than the following, the 4th and remainder nearly equal in length, terminal joint with the apex acuminate." *Lat.*—10-jointed in the female, and slightly increasing in breadth to the apical joint; basal the stoutest, subglobose, 2nd small ovate, 3rd much longer spatulate, 4th and 5th short, subquadrate, 6th the longest, 7th and 8th shorter, 9th longer than the 8th, somewhat sabre-shaped, 10th small and slender, pubescent and truncated (1 ♀).

Labrum exerted, coriaceous, small suborbicular, flat, ciliated before with soft hairs. *Lat.*—Lobe membranous, subovate, the apex elongated, strap-shaped (2).

Mandibles somewhat wedge-shaped, rounded at the apex and pubescent, clothed externally with longer hairs (3).

Maxillæ terminated by a horny curved process, pilose externally, with a large suborbicular membranous lobe on the inside. *Palpi* long, pubescent and 5-jointed, basal joint long, subclavate, 2nd short obconic, 3rd longer and stouter than the 1st, 4th the longest linear, 5th the slenderest and as long as the 1st (4).

Mentum small, cylindric, slightly narrowed at the middle. *Lip* as large as the mentum, compressed, subconic and slightly concave above. *Palpi* much smaller than the maxillary, rough with short hairs, triarticulate, basal joint clavate, 2nd minute, 3rd a little longer and broader than the 1st, truncated obliquely (5).

Head orbicular, with a crown of tubercles on the top: eyes ovate, more remote before than behind: ocelli 3 in triangle. Thorax not larger than the head. Abdomen sessile, subcylindric, slightly clavate and conical at the apex. Ovipositor concealed in a groove beneath. Wings rather short, superior with one long marginal, and 3 imperfect submarginal cells, the 1st and 2nd being united, the 3rd very long. Legs rather small: thighs short. Tibiæ all furnished with 2 spurs at the apex in the male, and the tarsi more elongated and 5-jointed. Tibiæ of the female, anterior very short and attenuated at the base, with a notched spine on the inside of the apex, and an oblique suture above the middle, appearing like a joint; the others angulated and acute at the apex on the outside, the posterior slightly serrated. Tarsi triarticulate in the fore feet, basal joint long and rounded, 2nd the shortest, inserted on the side before the apex of the 1st, pear-shaped but truncated obliquely, 3rd longer and clavate, the others 5-jointed and spined beneath at the apex, basal joint long, 4th minute. Claws and pulvilli small (8, fore leg of female).

CORONATUS *Fab.*, *Curt. Guide, Gen.* 480. 1.—*Vespertilio Klug.*, *Panz.*

In the Cabinet of the British Museum.

THIS curious insect bears a considerable resemblance to the Tenthredinidæ, but is nearest allied to Sirex, as is evident by the triarticulate labial palpi: it may therefore be viewed as the connecting link of Xiphydria and Sirex. The mouth affords some further peculiarities; and I regret that I did not discover the external part of the labrum, having found only a membranous lobe inserted beneath the clypeus: neither could I procure a male for examination. The mandibles are rounded and spoon-shaped, the external lobe of the maxillæ is rigid, and the 2nd joint of their palpi the smallest, and the labium is not divided, but hollow and similar to the Ichneumonidæ.

Oryssus is very peculiar in its structure: the sexes vary considerably; the antennæ, which are inserted under the clypeus, are 11-jointed in the male, and 10-jointed in the female; the oviduct is capillary and rolled up spirally in the abdomen, as it is, I think, in some of the Cynipidæ and Diplolepidæ; the submarginal cells are only 2, but 3 are indicated; the anterior tibiæ are so singularly formed towards the apex in the females as to appear like a basal joint to the tarsi, which are only triarticulate in the fore feet of this sex.

The only species of the genus is

O. coronatus Fab.—*Curt. Brit. Ent. pl.* 460. ♀.—*Coq. tab.* 5.
7. ♂ et ♀.

Black shagreened: eyes fuscous, a white stripe on each side the face; antennæ with the 3rd joint except at the base, the 4th, 5th, and a spot at the base of the 6th white; abdomen smooth and rufous, excepting the 2 basal joints: wings, superior with the apical portion fuscous, excepting the tip which is transparent as well as a band beyond the stigma, this as well as the nervures is piceous; a spot at the apex of the thighs and an abbreviated stripe outside the tibiæ white; tarsi and inside of the posterior tibiæ subferruginous.

Two specimens of this rare insect, taken by Dr. Leach, are in the British Museum: the male is smaller than the female: the former was captured in Devon, the latter in Darent Wood, in July. It is said to inhabit sandy situations: and the discovery of these insects in England is very remarkable; for I believe they have never been found to the North of Brives in the South of France.

Latreille says these insects are lively and restless: they repose in preference upon old trees, exposed to the sun. They run over a portion of their height with rapidity in a straight line, taking, when they are alarmed, a lateral or retrograde direction. Scopoli found them upon fir-trees, and Latreille upon old hornbeams in the spring.

The Plant is *Phalaris canariensis* (Manured Canary-grass).