

Walker 1877

Walker Notes on Chalcididae

1877

the length of the sixth joint. Prothorax quadrate, as long as broad. Mesothorax rather small; scutum shorter than the prothorax; sutures of the parapsides distinct: scutellum rather small. Metathorax short, abruptly slanting. Petiole slender, cylindrical, longer than the metathorax, shorter than the abdomen, which is elliptical, smooth and shining. Legs moderately long and stout; femora slightly incrassated; fore femora minutely dentate beneath towards the base; tarsi 5-jointed. Wings moderately broad. Fore wings with a large stigma adjoining the ulna; humerus more than half the length of the wing; ulna about one-sixth of the length of the humerus; radius very short; cubitus descending obliquely to the disk, shorter than the ulna.

Female.—Antennæ 10-jointed, subclavate. Petiole short. Abdomen much compressed, shorter and very much narrower than the thorax, with four distinct segments. Oviduct extending very little beyond the tip of the abdomen.

S. MEGASTIGMOIDES. *Mas*.—Lutea; oculi fulvi; antennæ apice nigre; abdomen nigro uniplagiatum; alæ cinereæ, venis stigmatæque fulvis.

Male.—Luteous, shining, nearly smooth. Eyes tawny. Ocelli black. Club of the antennæ black. A black patch on the disk of the abdomen. Wings cinereous; veins tawny. Fore wings with a very large tawny stigma adjoining the ulna. Length of the body $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 lines.

S. DECATOMOIDES. *Mas et fem*.—Pallide lutea, nonnunquam fusco maculatum; abdomen *fem*. nonnunquam fuscum; alæ diaphanæ, venis pallide luteis stigmatæ nigro. *Var. β*.—Alæ anticæ fusco unimaculatæ.

Male and female.—Pale luteous, occasionally with a brown spot on each segment of the thorax. Wings pellucid; veins pale luteous; stigma blackish or black. *Var. β*.—A brown spot adjoining the stigma in the disk of the wing. Length of the body $1\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{3}{4}$ line.

The latter species seems to be very abundant; both were found by Sir W. Elliot in gins.

The Agaonidæ occur in the Mediterranean region, where they have been used in ancient time and in modern time for caprification, a process which has been described by various writers. Two of these species have been named *Blastophaga Sycomori* and *Sycophaga crassipes*: the latter has a long oviduct, and therein resembles *Idarnes*.

Agaon paradoxum represents this family in Sierra Leone; it and

Blastophaga are connecting links between *Idarnes* and *Sycobia*, from which they differ in not having prominent mandibles.

Idarnes Carme inhabits St. Vincent's Isle, in the West Indies, and exceeds the other species in the length of its oviduct. *Idarnes* and *Agaon* were first included in one family by A. H. Haliday. *Paphagus Sidero* also inhabits St. Vincent's Isle and belongs to the *Agaonidæ*. *Cirrospilus Acasta*, a native of England, established as a genus by the names of *Anthophorabia* and of *Melittobia*, may be placed next to the *Agaonidæ*.

It has been often said that the present state of one region of the earth, as regards its vegetation and animal life, resembles the much earlier state of another region, and thus the aspects of the *Agaonidæ* in different regions represent successive epochs of time, and indicate how much there is yet to be learned by the investigation of figs: perhaps some forms may be discovered that are more elementary than the species here figured, and are more characteristic of "the dark backward and abyss of time."

There will be much difference of opinion as to whether the chain of affinities in the *Agaonidæ* is merely a proof of the unity of system, or whether individuals in some cases continue comparatively undeveloped and in other cases become comparatively highly organized, like as the same parts of plants are formed into thorns or into leaves or into flowers.

EUCCHARIDÆ.

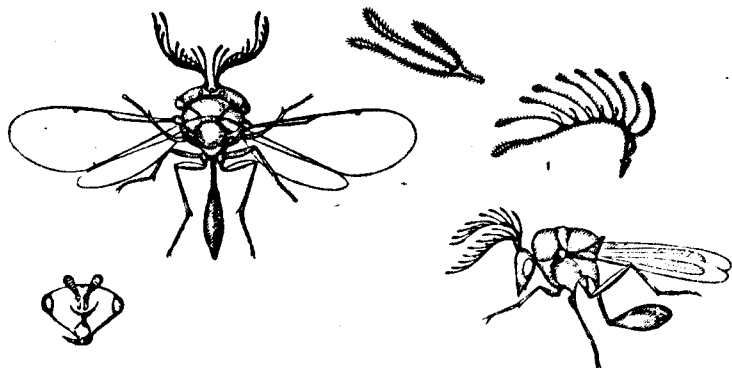


Fig. 1. *Stilbula Volusus*.

Fig. 2.

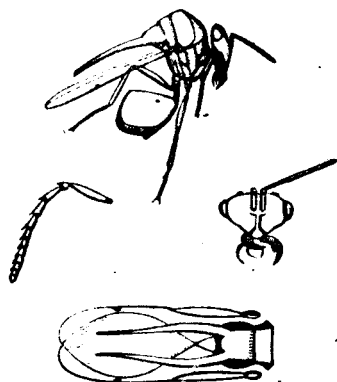
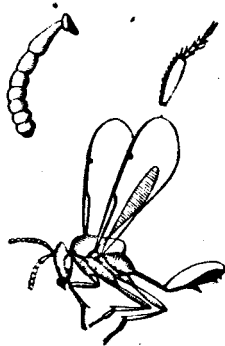


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2. *Schizaspidia furcata*.Fig. 3. *Eucharis* Iello.

The Eucharidæ are remarkable on account of the great development of the mesothorax, which in some species extends to the tip of the abdomen and is finely sculptured. Most of the species may be arranged as follows:—

STILBULA, *Spinola*.

cyniformis, *Rossi*. *bella*, *Foerst*. *Larymna*, *Wlk*. *smaragdina*, *Wlk*.
piceicornis, *Wlk*. *delicatula*, *Wlk*. *implexa*, *Wlk*. *Volusus*, *Wlk*.
Fausta, *Wlk*. *Valgius*, *Wlk*. *Zalates*, *Wlk*.

EUCCHARIS, *Latr*.

adscendens, *Fabr*. *punctata*, *Foerst*. *Kollari*, *Foerst*. *Pyttalus*, *Wlk*.
rufiventris, *Wlk*. *Theocles*, *Wlk*. *Iello*, *Wlk*. *Eribotes*, *Wlk*.
convergens, *Wlk*. *deprivata*, *Wlk*. *testacea*, *Motsch*.: this species
is perhaps not a *Eucharis*.

SCHIZASPIDIA, *Westw*.

furcata, *Fabr*. *cynipsea*, *Wlk*. *striatissima*, *Wlk*. *pallescens*, *Wlk*.
inexagens, *Wlk*. *reflexa*, *Wlk*. *flavicornis*, *Wlk*. *atrata*, *Wlk*.
surgens, *Wlk*. *apta*, *Wlk*. *Nasua*, *Wlk*. *furcifera*, *Westw*. *per-*
tendens, *Wlk*. *contigens*, *Wlk*. *plagiata*, *Westw*. *cyanea*, *Wlk*.

THORACANTHA, Latr.

striata, Perty. *Latreillii*, Guérin. *Anchurus*, Wlk. *apta*, Wlk.

A few species inhabit South Europe, but the greater part are natives of South America or of Australia. *E. adscendens* has been recorded doubtfully to have occurred in England.

The genus *Eucharissa*, Westw., is unknown to me.

PERILAMPIDÆ.

This family, like the *Eucharidæ*, has a gibbous and large mesothorax, and is few in species and in individuals. The genus *Caratomus* is placed by Foerster with the *Sphegigasteridæ*. Two genera may be separated from *Perilampus* as follows:—

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| A. Antennæ not pectinated. Colour generally metallic. | |
| a. Scutellum extending hindward and forming a | |
| long stout spine. | - EUPERILAMPUS. |
| b. Scutellum not elongated. | - PERILAMPUS. |
| B. Antennæ pectinated. Colour not metallic. | APERILAMPUS. |

Perilampus gloriosus is the type of *Euperilampus*, and *P. discolor* is the type of *Aperilampus*.

Philomides, a genus characterized by A. H. Haliday, is also distinguished by having no metallic tints. *P. Paphius*, Haliday, is the only species yet known and inhabits the Isle of Cyprus.

The genus *Chrysomalla*, Foerst. (type *C. Roseri*, Foerst.) is unknown to me. *Elatus* hardly belongs to this family: the two species described are *Thenæ*, Wlk., and *rufitarsus*, Foerst.

Chrysolampus splendidulus, Spinola, is one of the links between the *Perilampidæ* and the *Sphegigasteridæ*; it is placed with the *Perilampidæ* by Foerster, who describes it by the name of *Lamprostylus auricollis*, and records another species, *L. punctatus*.

PERILAMPUS HEDYCHROIDES.—Aureo-viridis; caput apud ocellos et scutum nigra; antennæ piceæ, filiformes; abdomen subtilissime punctatum; genua fulva; tarsi flavi; alæ diaphanæ.

Golden green. Head deeply excavated in front; vertex black about the ocelli. Antennæ piceous, filiform, short, stout, compact. Thorax very largely punctured; scutum black; scutellum large; sutures of the parapsides well defined, remote from each other. Petiole short.