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MDCCCXI.

XV. *Descriptions of Seven new Species of Apion. By the Rev. William Kirby, F.L.S.*

Read December 5, 1809.

I BEG leave to offer to the Linnean Society a description of some species of *Apion* which I have met with since my paper* upon that genus was printed, together with a few additional remarks upon some of those already described.

genistae

62. APION GENISTÆ.

A. nigrum albido-villosum, elytris villoso-cinereis: vittâ rectâ albidâ, pedibus rufis: plantis atris.

Long. Corp. $1\frac{1}{3}$ lin.

Habitat in Angliæ *Genistâ tinctoriâ*. Dom. Scales. *Mus.* Dom. Marsham, Milne, Scales, Spence, Geo. Sowerby, nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS nigrum, pilis decumbentibus albidis incanum.

CAPUT rariùs pilosum. *Rostrum* mediocre, filiforme, deorsum spectans, subarcuatum, nitidum, pone antennas incrassatum. *Antennæ* apud basin rostro subtus insertæ, mediocres nigræ: articulo primo rufo. *Oculi* magni, prominuli.

TRUNCUS subglobosus, anticè angustior, excavato-punc-

* *Trans. Linn. Soc.* vol. ix. p. 1.

tatus:

tatus: punctis distinctis, ante scutellum lineolâ exaratus. *Pedes* rufi: coxis femorum trochanteribus tarsisque nigris. *Coleoptra* oblonga, striata, ex flavescente cinerea, qui color ex pilis decumbentibus exoritur: vittâ intermediâ rectâ latâ villoso-albidâ, quæ tamen ad apicem haud attingit, in utroque elytro notanda; margo itidem lateralis paululùm albescit.

Obs.—*Puncta et lineola thoracica nisi pilis abrasis vix facilè conspicienda.*

This species very much resembles *A. melanopum* (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 19. 2), which it should follow; but the rostrum is thicker, the first joint only of the antennæ is rufous, the trunk is proportionally wider, the thighs are entirely rufous, the very extremity of the base only excepted, the hip-joints are black, and the elytra, instead of a narrow oblique streak, have a broad straight stripe of white, which runs nearly to the end.

laevicolle

63. APION LÆVICOLLE.

A. atrum glabrum, fronte sulcatâ, femoribus testaceis, trunco læviusculo, coleoptris globoso-ovatis gibbis.

Long. Corp. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Habitat in Angliâ. In Cantio a nobis bis lectum æstate hujus (1809) anni. *Mus.* nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS atrum, nitidum, glabrum.

Caput vix punctatum, inter oculos sulcatum: sulculis circiter tribus. *Rostrum* ferè mediocre, crassiusculum, in medio paululùm incrassatum, obsoletiùs rugulosopunctatum. *Antennæ* mediocres, paulo pone medium rostro insidentes.

Truncus

Truncus cylindricus, capite vix latior, levissimè punctulatus, ante scutellum fossulâ satis impressâ notatus. *Femora* omnia cum trochanteribus, item *Coxæ* anteriores duæ, flavo-testacea. *Tibiæ* anticæ rufæ basi dilutiores, posteriores quatuor nigro-piceæ basi annulo flavo-testaceo. *Tarsi* nigri. *Coleoptra* subglobosa sive ex globoso ovata, gibba, striata: striis subpunctatis.

This species should be placed after *A. flavifemoratum* (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 42. 23.) to which it is very nearly related: it is however quite distinct, and may always be known by the very slight punctation of its trunk, and the deep fossula just above the scutellum. The rostrum also is thicker than even that of the male of the species just referred to, and the little furrows too between the eyes afford a good character. I think it was taken, but am not quite certain, in the parish of *Wittersham* in the *Isle* of *Oxney* in *Kent*, a spot which abounds with insects, particularly *Hymenoptera*.

64. APION VELOX.

A. atrum, rostro breviori crassiusculo, coleoptris obovatis sulcatis: sulcorum interstitiis angustissimis.

Long. Corp. $\frac{5}{4}$—1 lin.

Habitat in Angliâ. In *Salice capreâ* a Dom. Sheppard sæpiùs lectum currens velociter. *Mus.* Dom. Sheppard, Geo. Sowerby, Wilkin, nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS atrum, pilositate parvâ albicanti paululùm obscuratum.

Caput inter oculos confluenter rugulosum. *Rostrum* brevius, crassum, lævc. *Antennæ* sublongiores, pone medium

dium rostro insidentes: clavâ albido-villosâ. *Oculi* admodum magni, subprominuli.

TRUNCUS teretiusculus, medio paulò latior, confluenter punctatus, lineolâ obsoletiori ante scutellum impressus. *Coleoptra* ex globoso obovata, sulcata: sulcis interstitiis ipsis latioribus, concinnè et impressè punctatis.

This species may be placed after *A. ebeninum* (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 55. 34.) to which it is allied. It differs from it not only in size, being very much smaller, but the rostrum also is shorter and thicker, the trunk is of a different shape, rough with confluent points, and exhibiting a very faint trace of an impressed line or point at the scutellum. From *A. brevirostre*, (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 68. 51.) which it also somewhat resembles, it is sufficiently and indeed strikingly distinguished by the unusual width of the furrows of the elytra, and their very narrow ridge-like interstices. Mr. Sheppard informs me that it runs uncommonly fast for an insect of this genus. Mr. George Sowerby has also taken it, who gave me my specimens.

65. APION PUBESCENS.

A. atrum piloso-incanum, thorace brevi posticè lineolâ impresso, rostro mediocri.

Long. Corp. 1 lin. circiter.

Habitat in Angliâ. Ex *Mus.* Dom. Hall.

DESCR. CORPUS nigrum, nitidiusculum, totum pilis albicantibus incanum.

CAPUT thorace paulò brevius, inter oculos læviusculum. *Rostrum* filiforme, mediocre, satis arcuatum. *Antennæ* posticæ, mediocres. *Oculi* magni, prominuli.

TRUNCUS

Truncus brevis, teretiusculus, posticè latior, punctulatus, ante scutellum lineolâ exaratus. *Coleoptra* ovata, striata: striis subpunctatis; interstitiis planiusculis.

Obs. *Maris rostrum brevius, crassius, leviter arcuatum.*

This species should follow *A. atomarium*, (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 59. 40.) which it very much resembles: the head however is longer, the rostrum in both sexes shorter, the trunk is more conspicuously punctulate with a very visible dorsal channel, the interstices also of the furrows of the elytra are wider and flatter, and the furrows themselves less conspicuously punctate.

66. APION SIMILE.

A. atrum, coleoptris obovatis æneo-nigris subsericeo-nitidis, rostro *femineo* longiori.

Long. Corp. 1—1¼ lin.

Habitat in Angliâ. Apud Hunstanton in Norfolciâ in maritimis a nobis semel lectum. *Mus.* Dom. Marsham, W. J. Hooker, nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS atrum ex pube quâdam parvâ obscurum.

Caput. *Rostrum* longius, filiforme, leviter arcuatum, apice nitidum, in medio subincrassatum. *Antennæ* mediocres, pone medium rostro insidentes. *Oculi* magni, subimmersi.

Truncus subcylindricus, confluenter punctatus, lineolâ ante scutellum exaratus. *Coleoptra* obovata, nigra, æneo, sed levissimè, tincta, subsericeo-nitida, striata: striis subpunctatis; interstitiis planiusculis.

Obs. *Maris rostrum brevius et quàm feminæ crassius. Elytrorum nitor sericeus ex rugulositate quâdam, sed levissimâ, exoritur.*

A. simile is nearly related to and should follow the preceding species, but it is less hairy; the rostrum is longer, its coleoptra are more obovate, have an æneous tint, and reflect, although faintly, a sericeous lustre. It is also not unlike *A. seniculus*, (*Linn. Trans.* ix. 61. 43.) but it is less hairy, and proportionally wider.

67. APION ANGUSTATUM.

A. atrum subangustum piloso-subincanum, coleoptris oblongis sulcatis, scutello canaliculato.

Apion angustatum. *Mus. Dom. Gyllenhal.*

Apion Meliloti var. *β. Kirby in Linn. Trans.* ix. 64. 46.

Long. Corp. 1⅓ lin.

Habitat in Suecia. *Mus.* Dom. Gyllenhal. nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS atrum, angustum satis, ex pilositate obscurum et leviter incanum.

CAPUT longum admodum, punctatum, inter oculos rugulosum. *Rostrum* longius, subfiliforme, arcuatum, levissimè punctulatum, ante antennas nitidum. *Antennæ* mediocres, pone medium rostro insidentes. *Oculi* prominuli.

TRUNCUS ex globoso teretiusculus, confluenter punctatus, ante scutellum lineolâ satis impressâ exaratus. *Scutellum*, quod singulare, canaliculatum. *Coleoptra* oblonga, sulcata: sulcis interstitiorum ferè latitudine, impressè punctatis.

In my description of *A. Meliloti*, I intimated a suspicion that var. *β* might prove a distinct species; but as I had then seen only two specimens of the former insect, I did not venture to separate them. Having since taken several, none of which varied from

from α in the slightest degree, I was induced to compare β with it again. The result of this comparison was the conviction that they ought to be given as distinct species; for, exclusive of the difference of size which is considerable for such minute insects, the body of *A. angustatum* is more hairy and obscure; the head between the eyes has no concavity, and is differently sculptured; the trunk and coleoptra, which last are proportionally shorter, are of a shape rather different, the former inclining a little more to a globose form, and the latter being more oblong; the minute scutellum is distinguished by a longitudinal channel, and the furrows of the elytra are wider in proportion.

68. APION SCUTELLARE.

A. atrum subangustum piloso-subincanum, coleoptris obovatis sulcatis, scutello elongato.

Long. Corp. 1¼ lin.

Habitat in Angliâ semel lectum. *Mus.* nostr.

DESCR. CORPUS admodùm angustum, atrum, ex pilositate parvâ subincanum et obscurum.

Caput thorace paulo brevius, inter oculos striatulum. *Rostrum* longius, filiforme, arcuatum, ante antennas subattenuatum apice ipso iterum paululum dilatato. *Antennæ* breviores, ponc medium rostro insidentes, nitidiusculæ. *Oculi* immersi.

Truncus teretiusculus, anticè paulo angustior, confluenter punctatus, ante scutellum fossulâ exaratus. *Scutellum* quam obtinet plerumque in hoc genere longius. *Coleoptra* ex oblongo obovata, sulcata: sulcis interstitiorum ferè latitudine, punctatis.

I had

I had put by this insect also, as a variety of *A. Meliloti*, but upon further inspection I am convinced it is distinct: it is intermediate between it and *A. angustatum*, which should stand first in the series. From *A. Meliloti*, which it most resembles, it may be distinguished by having a rather longer rostrum, a more hairy body, eyes less prominent, elytra black with wider furrows, a longer scutellum, and no concavity between the eyes. From *A. angustatum*, with which it agrees in its plane front, hairy body, and sulcate elytra, it differs in those other characters which distinguish *A. Meliloti* from that species.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS.

My learned and very ingenious friend, and coadjutor in an intended *Introduction to Entomology*, William Spence, Esq. F.L.S. whose eye nothing escapes, in a letter lately received, directed my attention to the *trochanters* (for by this name, in the work above alluded to, we have agreed to distinguish what I formerly called the second or femoral joint of the *apophysis*) in *Apion* as differently circumstanced from those of other *Coleopterous* genera; and upon examination I find that they are so fixed to the base of the thighs as to intercept them from coming at all in contact with the coxæ (or my first joint of the *apophysis*); which circumstance, although it invariably takes place in *Hymenopterous* insects, is observable in no *Coleoptera* that I have had an opportunity to examine, not even in the cognate tribes of *Curculionidæ*, or insects that have their antennæ seated on a rostrum. The general law in this order is for the exterior and longer angle of the base of the thigh at least, to touch the *coxa*, if it does not inosculate

osculate with it; and, to permit this, the *trochanter* is set on very obliquely, and so that this angle goes beyond it: whereas in *Apion* the apex of the *trochanter* forms nearly a transverse or very slightly oblique line with the base of the thigh, and intercepts it in its whole width. This peculiarity strongly substantiates its claim to be considered as a distinct genus.

When I constructed the *Character Naturalis* of *Apion*, I was not aware that the term *Epigastrium* had been employed by Linné upon one occasion, and probably in the very sense in which I used it. See Syst. Nat. ed. 12. 647. 4. under *Cantharis rufa*.

I shall now add a few remarks upon some of the species formerly described.

Apion Malvæ (Linn. Trans. ix. 20. 3.) Obs. 1. *Coxæ* omnes nigræ, sed *trochanteres* testacei sunt, quod etiam obtinet in *A. vernali* (21. 4.)

Obs. 2. *Maris* rostrum paulò brevius et crassius est, et ferè totum albido pilosum.

Apion Craccæ (29. 12.) Var. β Antennis totis nigris. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion Viciæ (31. 14.) *Coxæ* nigræ. *Femora* antica trochanteribus rufis. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion Malvarum (33. 16.) *Coxæ* nigræ. *Femora* omnia trochanteribus rufis, sed posticis obscurè.

Apion rufirostre (35. 17.) *Coxæ* omnes cum femorum trochanteribus flavæ. *Dom. Spence.*

Mr. Leach informs me that he has occasionally taken this species in coitu with *A. Malvarum*.

Apion nigritarse (36. 18.) *Femina. Coxæ* 4 anteriores cum trochanteribus omnibus flavæ. *Mas. Coxæ* 2 anteriores cum trochanteribus omnibus rufæ.

Apion

Apion flavipes (37. 19.) *Coxæ* 2 anteriores nunc nigræ nunc flavæ, reliquis nigris, femorum trochanteribus flavis. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion pallipes (38. 20.) *Coxæ* omnes, item trochanteres, flavæ.

Apion assimile et flavifemoratum (42. 22, 23.) *Coxæ* duæ anteriores, cum trochanteribus omnibus, rufæ. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion Sorbi (46. 25.) In quibusdam speciminibus *Caput* inter oculos bistriatum. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion punctifrons (50. 28.) *Femina* rostro longiori tenuiori.

I took several specimens of this *Apion* in the sandpits under *Charlton-Wood* near *Woolwich* in the autumn of the present year, 1809.

Apion marchicum (54. 33.) Var. β Elytris viridescente-cæruleis: striâ suturali in medio vix reliquis profundiori.

Obs. *Mas* rostro breviori sed vix crassiori.

Apion Astragali (55. 35.) Var. β taken by Mr. Atkinson of Leeds in Yorkshire, in June and July 1809, on the only plant of *Astragalus glyciphyllus* he ever met with in that county.

Apion Spencii (57. 37.) Ex pluribus speciminibus inter se collatis *Nomen Specificum* sic emendandum.

A. atrum piloso-obscurum, fronte striatâ, thorace canaliculato utrinque foveato, coleoptris atro-cæruleis viridescentibusve. K.

Obs. *Femina* rostro longiori tenuiori. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion unicolor (58. 39.) *Nomen specificum* sic emendandum, cum specimina plura puncta gemina elevata rostri exhibeant.

A. atrum subpilosum, coleoptris oblongis, rostro puncto gemino elevato. K.

Obs. *Femina* rostro longiori tenuiori. *Dom. Spence.*

Apion Seniculus (61. 43.) *Oculi* majores quàm in *A. tenui.*

Apion Meliloti (64. 46.) *Caput* inter oculos potiùs striatum. *Mas* rostro paulò breviori sed vix quàm feminæ crassiori. I took several

several this autumn (1809) in the sand-pits under *Charlton-Wood*, near *Woolwich*.

Apion violaceum (65. 47.) Var. β. Elytris viridescentibus. Var. γ. Fronte vix canaliculatâ, capite thoraceque, sed levissimè, æneo tinctis, elytris viridescente-cæruleo nitidulis. An idem? Ex *Mus.* Dom. Hall.

Apion Onopordi (71. 54.) *Habitat* etiam in *Rumice* et *Carduis*. *Dom. Spence*. A me nunquam nisi in *Onopordo* lectum. K.

Apion Radiolus et oxurum (73. 56, 57.) From a further examination of Mr. Marsham's specimen of *A. Radiolus* I am convinced that *A. oxurum* is merely a variety of it, differing in nothing but the black colour of its elytra, and the hairs which are scattered over it. In old specimens the hairs are often rubbed off. I therefore would expunge *A. oxurum*.