

MYRMECINA LATREILLII.

ORDER Hymenoptera. FAM. Formicidæ *Leach*. Formicariæ
Lat.

Type of the Genus Myrmecina Latreillii Nob.

MYRMECINA Nobis.

Antennæ inserted in the middle of the face, remote, longer than the head and thorax, geniculated, hairy; 13-jointed, basal joint short, but twice as long as the 2nd, which is subglobose, the 3rd and following oblong, those beyond the 5th being rather obovate-truncate, terminal joint the longest, elongate-conic (1). *Labrum* large and exserted, coriaceous, dilated at the base, each side producing a small lobe beneath; anterior margin rounded and notched, with a few bristles and ciliated (2).

Mandibles none, at least in the male.

Maxillæ large and dilated, terminated by a broad membranous and ciliated lobe, meeting behind the mentum when at rest.

Palpi rather long and slender, 4-jointed, basal joint the smallest, 2nd and 3rd of nearly equal length, 4th long subfusiform (4).

Mentum subovate, truncated at the base, with an arched suture towards the top. *Lip* none? *Palpi* rather long and slender, triarticulate, 1st and 2nd joints nearly of equal length, the 3rd longer and subfusiform (5).

Head subglobose. *Eyes* globose. *Ocelli* very prominent, forming a large triangle. *Thorax* ovate. *Metathorax* bidentate. *Peduncle* biarticulate, 2nd joint the largest and globose. *Abdomen* ovate-conic, 5-jointed, basal joint covering the greater portion of the body. *Wings* with a trigonate stigma, the marginal cell pedicled at the apex; one discoidal cell, and the apical nervures obscure. *Legs* rather long. *Thighs* long, slender, dilated in the middle. *Tibiæ* short, anterior producing a pectinated spine. *Tarsi* 5-jointed, basal joint as long as the tibia, the remainder oblong. *Claws* small, *Pulvilli* distinct (8, a fore leg).

Obs. All the figures and descriptions were taken from a male.

LATREILLII Nobis.

Smooth, shining, piceous black; sparingly clothed with hairs. *Eyes* black. *Head* and *thorax* with a few punctures. *Antennæ* and *legs* ferruginous, *thighs* and *tibiæ* piceous in the middle. *Wings* very iridescent, yellowish fuscous, stigma and nervures brown.

In the Author's Cabinet.



THE only specimens I have ever seen of this little insect were all males, which I swept off rushes the middle of August and beginning of September, at the back of the Isle of Wight, where they were flying about; and having been unsuccessful in searching for the females and neuters, I am induced to publish the materials I possess, hoping that it may lead to the discovery of the sexes.

Myrmecina is nearly related to Myrmica, of which genus I would willingly have made it a division; but the short basal joint of the antennæ, the different nervation of the wings, and above all, the absence of the mandibles, rendered this desirable object impracticable. The labrum also is remarkable for having the basal angles thickened and produced; and these I am almost disposed to think are modifications of mandibles.

This nondescript insect I have the pleasure of dedicating to my esteemed friend Mons. Latreille, whose investigation of the family to which it belongs, as well as his numerous valuable works on Entomology, have contributed so effectively to the philosophical advancement of Science.

The beautiful plant represented is *Lathyrus sylvestris* (Wild Lathyrus), it grows luxuriantly on the sloping cliff between Bonchurch and Luccomb Chine, and spontaneously ornaments the elegant grounds of James Vine, Esq. at Puckaster Cove in the Isle of Wight.