

# NOTES ON THE MALES OF *CRYPTOSERPHEUS* TOGETHER WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA, SERPHOIDEA).

By G. E. J. NIXON, B.A.

THIS short paper should be regarded as an appendix to my 1938 revision of the British *Proctotrupinae* (*Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, **87** : 413-466). Actually it has been written at the request of my colleague, Mr. J. F. Perkins, whose list of the Swedish species of the subfamily also appears in this issue of the *Entomologist*.

In my earlier paper I expressed some doubt as to whether the species I believed to be *Cryptoserphus longitarsis* Thomson was specifically distinct from *C. cumaeus* Nixon, as I had seen only three specimens of the former. That doubt has now been dispelled, for Perkins took a series of both species in Sweden and I have taken two males of *cumaeus* and one of *longitarsis* in the Austrian Tyrol (Oberau, vii.1938). When I wrote my revision I knew only the female of *longitarsis*, but as Perkins took the male in Sweden, he thought it would be a good thing if I undertook to publish a note on the difference between it and the male of *cumaeus*.

I now take this opportunity of acknowledging to Mr. Perkins his discovery of a useful colour-character—the colour of the pronotal collar—for separating *longitarsis* from *cumaeus*. I also have pleasure in naming after him an interesting new species of *Cryptoserphus* from this country in token of the keen interest he has taken in the Serphinae, since the appearance of my revision in 1938.

In the following key *C. parvulus* Nees is omitted, for strictly speaking it belongs to a species-group rather widely different from the other members of the genus, and is at once separated from them by the shortness of the radial cell.

## MALES (AND FEMALES).

1. Legs predominantly brownish throughout . . . . . *laricus* Hal. 1
- Legs predominantly yellowish throughout . . . . . 2
2. Longer spur of the hind tibia hardly  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as the basal segment of the hind tarsus; mesosternal furrow hardly less deeply impressed on anterior half than on posterior half. [Sp. with the hind tarsus shorter than in the following species (Fig. 3); no carina on the face but a small tubercle between the antennal insertions] . . . . . *perkinsi* sp. n.
- Longer spur of the hind tibia fully  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as the basal segment of the hind tarsus . . . . . 3

3. Longer spur of the hind tibia not more than twice as long as the shorter one (Fig. 4). (Mouth opening very wide, Fig. 2) . . . . . *cumaeus* Nixon, 1938.  
 Longer spur of the hind tibia clearly a little more than twice as long as the shorter one (Fig. 5) . . . . . 4
4. Pronotal collar, at least on anterior half, usually yellow testaceous; segment 12 of the antenna about twice as long as wide; spiracle of the propodeum not completely closed when the thorax is seen laterally and slightly from behind. (Mouth opening slightly less wide than in *cumaeus*, cf. Fig. 2) . . . . . *longitarsis* Thomson.  
 Pronotal collar blackish throughout; segment 12 of the antenna about 3 times as long as wide; spiracle of the propodeum completely closed by an operculum when the thorax is thus viewed. (Mouth opening much less wide than in *cumaeus*, cf. Fig. 2) . . . . . *aculeator* Haliday.

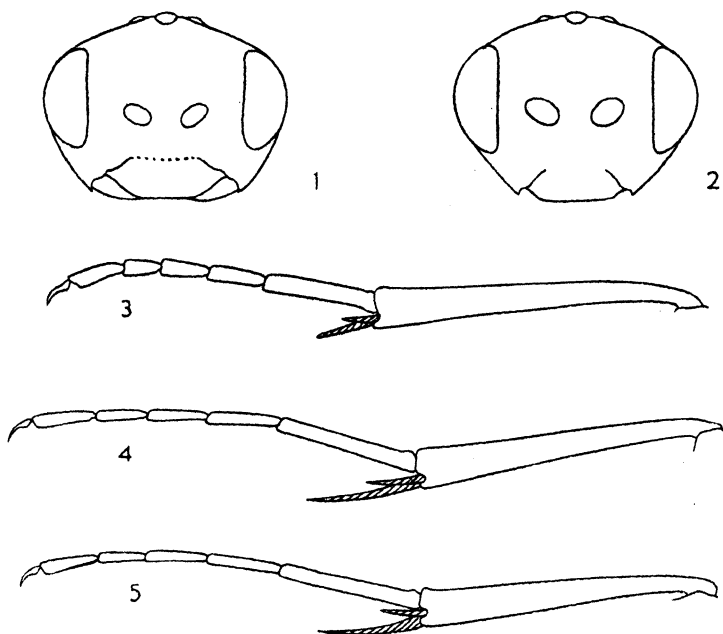


FIG. 1.—Head of *Cryptoserphus perkinsi* sp. n., ♀.  
 FIG. 2.—Head of *Cryptoserphus cumaeus* Nixon, ♀.  
 FIG. 3.—Hind tibia and tarsus of *Cryptoserphus perkinsi* sp. n., ♂.  
 FIG. 4.—Hind tibia and tarsus of *Cryptoserphus cumaeus* Nixon, ♂.  
 FIG. 5.—Hind tibia and tarsus of *Cryptoserphus aculeator* Haliday, ♂.

### ***Cryptoserphus perkinsi* sp. n.**

♂♀. In general facies and coloration much like *cumaeus* Nixon, but differing in the form of the legs and the length of the hind tibiae

spurs. In this last respect there is a close approach to *laricis* Haliday, between which species and the *aculeator*-group as defined in my 1938 revision, *perkinsi* seems to be transitional; it may be compared with *cumaesus* as follows:

♀. Face with a less distinct keel between the antennal insertions and the clypeus. Head, seen from above, slightly less narrowed towards the occipital margin; seen from in front, it is slightly more transverse and somewhat more elliptical in appearance but hardly different in this view from the head of *laricis*; mouth opening slightly wider (Fig. 1).

Mesonotum slightly wider, its pubescence finer and paler. Mesosternal suture deeply impressed on anterior half; in *cumaesus*, *aculeator* and *longitarsis*, it is only just indicated here. Legs stouter, the tarsal segments less elongated; longer spur of the hind tibia hardly  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as the 1st segment of the hind tarsus (Fig. 3). Propodeum short as in *cumaesus*; when seen from the side and slightly from behind its spiracle is not so completely closed as in *cumaesus*.

♂. Like the ♀ except for the usual sexual differences, and differing from the male of *cumaesus* by the same characters which separate the females of the two species.

Length: ♂♀, 3.2–4 mm. Type in British Museum.

ENGLAND.—SR. Weybridge, 27.x.1940, 7 ♂♂, paratypes, 1 ♀, type, taken flying over and settling on decaying stem of marrow on rubbish heap (G. E. J. Nixon).

This species differs from *laricis* Haliday chiefly in having much more slender antennae and brightly coloured legs. It should be noted that in *laricis* the mesosternal suture shows the same degree of definition as in *perkinsi*.

MELANIC MANIOLA JURTINA.—On July 22 in the New Forest I took a unique melanic female specimen of the Meadow Brown (*M. jurtina*). Except for the eye spots and small fulvous surround on fore wings, its borders and the whole of the hind wings were completely dead black, and the underside is exactly the same as the upperside. It is now in Mr. Castle-Russell's collection.—ERNEST E. JOHNSON; Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst, Hants.

ARGYNNIS VARIETIES IN WYRE FOREST.—I took in Wyre Forest on July 24 a female *Argynnis paphia* ab. *nigricans* Cosm. It is in superb condition; all areas of wings very heavily marked with black. Also on same spot on same day another female *Argynnis paphia* ab. *confluens*, black spots on all wings very heavily extended into long black bars. I believe these are very unusual varieties to take in Wyre Forest. Also on same day in Wyre Forest I took a fine male *Argynnis cydippe* with the two fore wings greatly extended in large hooks with the centre of each extension filled with a long thick black bar.—L. BIRCH; The Rectory, Silvington, Cleobury Mortimer, near Kidderminster.