This species differs only from the former in its more acuminate leaves, equal at base and pilose on both sides, and in its fasciculate flowers. The leaves are from 4 to 5 inches long, 20 to 21 lines broad, on a petiole of 12 to 15 lines in length. The flowers resemble those of the former species in size and shape; they are probably fasciculate, as in the first-mentioned species, and not umbellate, a mode of expression often used by Professor Kunth in that sense, which is the more evident, as he makes no allusion to any general peduncle.

VI.—*On the Identification of a Genus of Parasitic Hymenoptera.* By J. O. Westwood, F.L.S.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Gentlemen, Hammersmith, June 5, 1849.

As I have neither leisure nor inclination to answer in detail Mr. Newport's reiterated attacks upon me, I shall merely observe—

1st. That I again deny having expressed a single word of doubt as to Mr. Newport's having found the insects in question in 1832, or that I asserted that his knowledge of them was derived from my communications. I said that Mr. Newport must have known from those communications that his insects were identical with those reared by Audouin and exhibited by me.

2nd. The notices published by me in 1845 and 1847 are sufficient to identify my insect and to distinguish it from every known species of *Chalcididæ*, and ought (even if Mr. Newport had not been present when I exhibited my specimens and drawings, and gave a *vivâ voce* description of the insect) to have satisfied him of their identity. My notices, although not drawn up in a technical manner, indicate the chief essential peculiarities of the insect, viz. 1st, its minute size; 2nd, its parasitism in the nests of mason bees and wasps; 3rd, the impregnation of the female within the cell of the bee; 4th, the habit of the female of using her wings, and seeking other cells in which to deposit her eggs; 5th, its position in the family *Chalcididæ*; 6th, the singular distorted* antennæ of the males; 7th, the minute size of the wings of the male, and 8th, the full size of the wings of the female.

3rd. I reaffirm the identity of the insects, and having seen Mr. Newport's drawing made seventeen years ago, I do not hesitate to state that his description has been drawn up from this

* The antennæ of *Elasmus*, &c. are not distorted in form; they are simply furnished with long lateral branches.

imperfect sketch, and that seven out of the nine generic characters given by him in the 'Gard. Chronicle,' p. 183, are erroneous; namely, 1st, the size of the head of the female; 2nd, the description of the female antennæ; 3rd, description of the wings of the female; 4th, description of the tarsi of the female; 5th, description of the antennæ of the male; 6th, description of the eyes of the male; 7th, size of the insects. Some of these characters, namely the veins of the wings and the 5-jointed tarsi, neither belong to the family nor subfamily to which the insect is to be referred, whilst the possession of stemmatous eyes by the male is disproved by every known species of winged insect, whereas it is as essentially a character of some of the Ametabolous tribes. Mr. Newport admits it to be possible, but not probable, that he has made these mistakes (Gard. Chron. May 26th), and brings forward his own and my descriptions of the male antennæ to show the improbability; but on examining his drawing I find the space for the joints he has overlooked indicated by an increased length of the base of the following joint. The proper way to disprove my assertions is to produce his specimens for the examination of competent entomologists.

4th. Respecting the physiology of Mr. Newport's paper it is to be observed, that finding two species of larvæ in the nests of *Anthophora,* both of which produced species of *Chalcididæ* (a family hitherto known only as insectivorous parasites), and finding moreover on dissection that both these larvæ possessed the same forms of the digestive organs, Mr. Newport arrived at the conclusion that one was insectivorous, and the other pollinivorous! Driven however from this ground by the direct observation of the parasitism of *Monodontomerus* by Mr. F. Smith (who, notwithstanding Mr. Newport's attempt to deprive him of the credit thereof, was the first who discovered the parasitic larvæ of that insect, and directed Mr. Newport to the spot), Mr. Newport tells us (Gard. Chron. p. 231), that "what he had chiefly dwelt upon in his paper was the circumstance of its being an external feeder, as proved by the hairs on its body, although he had advocated the opinion that it fed on pollen; but as to whether this was the case or not, he considered that it mattered but little with reference to the anatomical facts he had described:" in other words, that it was immaterial whether the insect were carnivorous or pollinivorous, its peculiar anatomy being equally suited for either condition! But even here Mr. Newport has arrived at a wrong conclusion, for the hairs on the outside of the body of the larva are not characteristic of external feeding parasite-larvæ, since those of *Eulophus Nemati,* which feed on the surface of the body of the larva of *Nematus intercus,* are destitute of hairs.

As the paper which I read at the Linnæan Society on the

1st of May last contains all that I have to say on this subject, I shall not reply to any further comments which Mr. Newport may think proper to publish unsupported by the production of the specimens which he professes to have described.

I am, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

J. O. Westwood.

VII.—*Descriptions of* Aphides. By Francis Walker, F.L.S.

[Continued from vol. iii. p. 304.]

66. *Aphis Urticaria*, Kaltenbach.

Aphis Urticaria, Kalt. Mon. Pflan. 57. 39.

This is a clustering species, and feeds on *Urtica dioica*, *U. urens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *R. Idæus*, and on *Stachys sylvatica*?

The viviparous wingless female. It is small, dark green, elliptical or oval, convex, and velvet-like, with a rim on each side: the front is slightly convex: the feelers are black, dull yellow towards the base, and hardly half the length of the body; the first and the second joints are not angular; the fourth is much shorter than the third; the fifth is shorter than the fourth; the sixth is much shorter than the fifth; the seventh is nearly as long as the third, and much more slender than the preceding joints: the mouth is dull yellow; its tip and the eyes are black: the nectaries are pale yellow with black tips, and about one-twelfth of the length of the body: the legs are pale yellow; the knees, the feet, and the tips of the shanks are black. When young it is sometimes pale greenish or yellowish red, with white limbs.

1st var. The body is dark grayish red.

2nd var. Dark green mixed with pale green.

3rd var. Green, with a yellow head.

4th var. Dark yellow.

5th var. Pale yellow.

6th var. Dark green, mottled with pale yellow and with black.

7th var. Very dark green, or almost black: the feelers are rather more than half the length of the body: the nectaries are dull green with black tips, and about one-eighth of the length of the body.

8th var.? Dull green with a white bloom: the feelers are brownish, pale yellow at the base, and not near half the length of the body: the mouth is dark green: the tip of the abdomen is almost black: the nectaries are very dark green, or almost black, and one-eighth of the length of the body: the legs are pale yellow; the tips of the thighs are darker; the feet and the

Westwood, J. O. 1849. "VI.—On the identification of a genus of parasitic hymenoptera." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 4, 39–41. https://doi.org/10.1080/03745486009494797.

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