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TWO SAWFLIES NEW TO BRITAIN— *SCOLIONEURA TENELLA* KLUG AND *PRISTIPHORA GENICULATA* HARTIG.

BY THE REV. F. D. MORICE, M.A., F.Z.S.

1. *Scolioneura tenella* Klug (=*tiliae* Kaltenbach).

Both sexes of this little Blennocampid appeared in some numbers in my garden at Woking on May 21st last and for several days following. They were flying about a Lime-tree which had been topped during the winter and was just beginning to put out a few young leaves. The ♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀ differed so remarkably in colour—the former having the abdomen for the most part bright testaceous-red, while that of the ♀ was entirely black—that at first I could hardly believe them to be conspecific, and in fact felt almost sure that the red-bodied insects could only be specimens of *Blennocampa affinis* Fall. (=*assimilis* Cam.), and the black-bodied ones probably of *Blennocampa pusilla* Kl., though I should not have expected either of those species to visit Lime-trees.

However, after taking four or five specimens of each and examining them with a hand-lens, I noticed (1) that all the red-bodied specimens were ♂ ♂* and all the black-bodied ones ♀ ♀, and (2) that neither the ♂ ♂ nor the ♀ ♀ had the wing-venation of the genus *Blennocampa* as at present defined, the basal nerve in their fore wing being not almost straight but *sharply and almost angularly bent*, not received on the subcosta close to the origin of the cubitus but *at some little distance before it*, and not parallel to the 1st recurrent but *converging with it in the direction of the stigma*. These characters, together with the absence of a "closed cell" in the hind wing, showed that all the specimens, ♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀ alike, were to be looked for in one or other of Konow's genera *Scolioneura* and *Entodecta*. And, after consulting Enslin's and Konow's descriptions of

* This alone would have made it unlikely that they could be specimens of *affinis*, for, though the ♀ ♀ of that species are fairly common, its ♂ ♂ are extremely rare!

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the few species yet discovered in these two genera, I was soon able to determine my captures for certain as the sexes of *tenella* Kl. (=*tiliae* Kalt.),—the only Blennocampid in which the ♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀ differ as above described in the colour of the abdomen, and the only one known to be attached to the Lime! Its larvae were found mining the leaves of that tree by Kaltenbach, who gave in his "Pflanzenfeinde" (1874, p. 78) a full account of their characters and habits, and was also the first author to describe *together* both sexes of the imago pointing out the difference in their coloration, so that it seems rather a pity that his well-chosen name for the species, viz. *tiliae*, should have to yield precedence to Klug's 60-years-earlier *tenella*, the description of which only suits the ♂ and was founded on a single specimen. The ♀ imago seems to have been first described by Lepeletier, who called it (in 1823 and again in 1830) *hylotomoides*, but did not know the ♂ nor the larva. Thomson in 1872 describes both sexes correctly, but calls them "*tenuicornis* Hartig," and he does not seem to have known the larva nor its food-plant. He speaks of the insect as rare, and it is probably not common anywhere, though pretty widely distributed, since it has occurred in Germany, France, Scandinavia, and now in Britain.

Although my specimens are, I believe, the first actually taken in this country it seems to have existed here for at least 40 years, since Cameron (Mon. vol. i, p. 256) notes that he "received from Stainton a mined leaf of *Tilia europaea*" which was "very probably" the work of "*Blennocampa tiliae* Kaltenbach, a species closely related, if not identical with, if one might judge from the description, *B. assimilis*." It is evident, however, from this, and from his further remarks on the subject, that he did not rear the species, and did not thoroughly understand Kaltenbach's description. He corrects, indeed, a mistranslation by André of certain words in that description; but he follows André in failing to note that Kaltenbach had described the ♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀ as coloured differently, and in consequently treating the red abdomen of the ♂ as a character belonging to both sexes of the species.

Tilia europaea is not, I believe, a really native British tree, and it is one to which even elsewhere very few Sawflies of any kind are attached. In fact, Enslin only mentions three such as occurring on it in "Middle Europe," namely *Caliroa annulipes*, *Pristiphora rufi-cornis*, and *Scolioneura tenella*, and of these (which all occur in Britain) the last only seems to be attached to it exclusively.

Lastly, it may be noted that such a difference of coloration as exists between the sexes of this species is very unusual in Sawflies. Nearly always either the ♂ ♂ and ♀ ♀ are coloured alike, or, if they

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differ, the ♂ is the darker sex. There are, however, a few other exceptions to this rule in certain genera, but I know of none such in the *Blennocampini* or in any of the tribes most nearly allied to them.

2. *Pristiphora geniculata* Hartig (=*cheilon* Zadd.).

Miss E. Chawner, F.E.S., has reared both sexes of this species from larvae which she found on June 21st feeding gregariously on Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) in the neighbourhood of Lyndhurst. She describes these larvae, which were nearly full-fed, as "half an inch long, stout and rather flat; head honey-yellow; body greenish-yellow with black dots along the sides. They left off feeding the next day, and cleared to bright yellow with black dots; then they went into earth." About the end of July the imagines began to emerge, mostly ♀ ♀, but two, which were smaller than the others and were the first to go down, developed into ♂ ♂. One of the ♀ ♀ laid parthenogenetic eggs (which, Miss Chawner tells me, have not yet hatched) "in the edges of Mountain Ash leaves, going all round the leaves between the serrations."

I have seen one of these ♂ ♂ and several of the ♀ ♀, and they undoubtedly belong to the species of which Zaddach has figured the larvae, and described both sexes of the imago, as *Nematus cheilon*. His specimens were reared (by Brischke) from *Sorbus aucuparia*. The insect, according to our present nomenclature, is a *Pristiphora*, the largest form known to me of that genus (5–7¾ mm. long), and the only one that has been found on Mountain Ash. Continental authors (Konow, v. Dalla Torre, and Enslin) identify this species with the *Nematus geniculatus* tabulated by Hartig in Stettin. Ent. Zeit. 1840; and, assuming them to be correct in this, Hartig's name has priority over *cheilon*, of which the larva was figured in 1882 and the imagines described in 1883. Hartig tabulates *geniculatus* without mentioning its food-plant, and separates it from the spp. which he considers its nearest congeners by a character of which Zaddach says nothing, namely "ventre apice rufo ♀ natibus rufis." One would gather from Zaddach's diagnosis that the abdomen of his *cheilon* was black in both sexes, and I find that in the ♂ sent to me by Miss Chawner it is entirely so, but that in all her ♀ ♀ there are traces of a little very obscure rufescence in the neighbourhood of the saw-sheath—so little and so obscure that it might easily be overlooked! No doubt in some specimens the rufescence may be more extensive and conspicuous, and I see that Enslin enumerates *geniculata* (=*cheilon*) both among the species with entirely black abdomen and among those in which the abdomen is "more or less pale at least on the venter or the apex."

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Of our other *Pristiphora* spp., *P. geniculata* (=*cheilon*) most resembles *P. melanocarpa*, having, like that species, entirely black antennae (not rufescent beneath!), a black stigma, and black and white legs with white trochanters; but it is larger and more robust, the labrum and also the apex of the clypeus seem to be always pale in both sexes, the head is more strongly sculptured (its upper areas more sharply defined than is usual in *Pristiphora*!), the vertex is very much longer (in *melanocephala* its length does not exceed the diameter of an ocellus!), and in the ♀ the saw-sheath (viewed from above) is much wider and more distinctly emarginate at its apex.

It is the only *Pristiphora* (and almost the only normal "Nematid") that is known to be attached to Mountain Ash.

Hitherto, according to Enslin, it has been known only from Germany and Holland. I can find no mention at all of it (either as *geniculatus* or as *cheilon*) in vol. i of André's "Species," nor in the works of any authors other than those mentioned above. Hartig was not yet acquainted with it when he published his great work on the *Families of Blatt- u. Holzwespen* (1837), and in the "Neue Ausgabe" of that work (dated Berlin, 1860) it is still left unnoticed.

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