

A new species of *Embia* Latr. from the Crimea
(Neuroptera, Embiodea) *).

(Preliminary description).

By

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Embia taurica, sp. n.

Adult male. — Length of body about 8–11 mm. Head and body slightly depressed, *dark brown*, except legs and prothorax being yellowish-fulvous; densely covered with golden-yellow hairs.

Head large, longer than broad, *subtriangular*, rounded behind, with rounded angles; *dark brown*, *almost black*, shining, clothed with hairs; frontal line straight, sides almost rectilinear, slightly excurved; occipital line rounded. Vertex somewhat *convex*; clypeal edge almost rectilinear. Frontal space *concave*; clypeus transverse, narrow, lighter in colour.

Eyes comparatively large, but not prominent, situated just behind and below the insertions of antennae, more or less *reniform* in shape.

Antennae *much longer* than the head, *pale brown*, haired; the maximum number of their joints is 18 (rarely 19); 1-st joint very large, cylindrical, robust, dark brown; 2-nd cylindrical, shorter than the 3-rd; 3-rd cylindrical, almost as long as 1-st; 4-th the shortest, cylindrical; all following similar, suboval, almost as long as 1-st.

Labrum large, rounded, nearly orbicular, dark brown. Mandibles very strong, long, curved, yellowish, with 3 sharp apical teeth and *a basal prominence*; tips and prominences pigmented with blackish-brown. Mandibles slightly asymmetrical, the teeth of the left mandible being somewhat more developed.

Maxillary palpi long, 5-jointed; joints 2–4 cylindrical, 5-th very long, pointed. Labial palpi 3-jointed. Submentum very large, *trapezoidal*.

*) I propose to elevate the family *Embiidae* of authors to a suborder *Embiodea* (see Sharp, D. Insects. 1895, Russian translation by N. J. Kusnezov, 1903, p. 220).

Prothorax much narrower than the head, pale fulvous, contrasting in colour with the head and other parts of body; pronotum subquadrate with sharp edges, a very deep transverse sulcus, and a longitudinal impression; prosternum subquadrate, small, with rounded margins.

Mesothorax broader than the prothorax, large, dark brown; mesonotum *trapezoidal* with rounded angles; mesosternum subtriangular with deep impressions between the insertions of middle coxae; its apex directed backward.

Metathorax broader, but perhaps shorter than the mesothorax, dark brown; metanotum *trapezoidal* with markedly broader and slightly *incurved basis*; metasternum subtriangular, apex directed backward.

Abdominal somites dark brown, much narrower than the metathorax, shining, hairy, subequal in size, ten in number; each tergite bearing two *impressed foveae* at the sides of median line.

Cerci 2-jointed, *brownish*, densely haired, asymmetrical; basal joint robust, cylindrical, rounded at the tip; 2-nd longer, pointed. (The right cercus a little more developed). 1-st joint of the left cercus excavated on its inner side for reception of the left titillator and penis.

Genital apophyses (titillatores) strongly asymmetrical. The right titillator long, straight, sharply pointed, directed to the left side, the left one much shorter, curved, hooked, and turned to the excavation of the left cercus.

Wings (or traces of wings) totally absent.

Legs yellowish-fulvous, concolorous with the prothorax, with fine dark markings.

Fore legs: coxae small, femora dilated, curved, with *longitudinal groove* beneath, highly inflated above; tibiae compressed; 1-st tarsal (spinning) joint large, ovoid, bearing a longitudinal curved sulcus above; 2-nd small, pointed; 3-rd comparatively long, bearing 2 simple claws; plantula wanting.

Middle legs: much shorter, thinner; coxae *larger*, measuring about $\frac{1}{2}$ length of femora; femora dilated, curved; 1-st tarsal joint ordinary.

Hind legs: coxae *large*, long; femora very inflated, grooved beneath; tibiae more straight; 1-st and 2-nd tarsal joints bear 3 spherical papillae.

Adult female. — Length of body about 10—12½ mm. Differs from the male in having: 1) body larger, more cylindrical, less depressed, lighter in colour, *fulvous, more unicolorous*; 2) head much smaller, *rounded, fulvous*, concolorous with the prothorax (eyes smaller, but more distinct), with *brownish* indistinct longitudinal and transverse *markings*; 3) frontal area of the head globular, not excavated; clypeal margin indistinct; 4) mandibles not so elongate, short, robust, and not curved; 5) 1-st joint of fore tarsus thicker, larger, more developed; 6) antennae shorter, fulvous; 7) meso- and metathorax very much paler; 8) 10-th abdominal tergite and cerci completely symmetrical; 9) external copulative armature wanting.

Examined: very numerous specimens, living, alcoholic, and preserved in canada-balsam.

Allied to *Embia solieri* R a m b u r 1842¹⁾, and to the species of Grassi²⁾. I believe the differences noted (*words in italics*) justify the consideration of *Embia taurica* m i h i as a very different and well defined species.

Habitat: Southern Coast of the Crimean peninsula; extremely abundant under stones. Numerous specimens collected in Yalta, Mukhalatka, Gursuf, Artek, Alushta, also near Sebastopol and Inkerman. Different larval instars in July 1902, adult insects in April, May, June 1903.

My detailed observations upon the biology, larvae, etc. of this interesting Crimean species will be published in the Horae Soc. Entom. Ross., XXXVII, 1903.

¹⁾ R a m b u r, P. Histoire naturelle des Insectes Névroptères, 1842, № 4, pp. 310—313.

²⁾ Grassi, B. & Sandias, A. Costituzione e sviluppo della società dei Termitidi. Atti Accad. Gioenia in Catania, (4), VII, 1894. Appendice II. Contribuzione allo studio delle Embidine. Pp. 59—76, tab. IV, fig. 1—11. — Also English translation by W. F. H. Blanford: Quart. Journ. Microscop-Science, XXXIX, 1897, p. 315; XL, 1898. Appendix II, pp. 55—75.