

XX. *Description of a new Genus of Exotic Bees.* By
J. O. Westwood, *F. L. S.*

[Read July 4, 1836.]

Ordo HYMENOPTERA.

Section ACULEATA.

Family APIDÆ.

Sub-family XYLOCOPIDES.

MESOTRICHIA, Westw. Tab. XI. fig. 7.

Genus *Anthophoram* cum *Xylocopis* arcte conjungens, cum hoc habitu et illo pedibus intermediis congruens.

Corpus magnum, latum et crassum.

Caput transversum, facie fere planâ. *Oculi* magni, laterales, ovales (fig. 7 *a*). *Antennæ* in medio faciei versus marginem internum oculorum insertæ, in ♂ 13-articulatæ; articulo 2do minuto, 3tio elongato, ad basin attenuato (7 *g*). *Labrum* parvum, bilobatum (7 *b*). *Mandibulæ* mediocres, elongatæ, curvatæ, apicè tridentatæ, dente externo latè truncato (7 *c*). *Maxillæ* longitudine mediocres, lobo apicali lato, ad apicem acuto, externè subtus insertionem antennarum semicirculariter excisæ, excisione setis rigidis et acutis armatâ (7 *d*). *Palpi maxillares* breves, 6-articulatæ; articulo 1mo minuto, 2do longiori, reliquis longitudine decrescentibus (7 *e*). *Mentum* angustum. *Labium* longitudine mediocre, palpis labialibus ejusdem magnitudine, 4-articulatis; articulo 1mo elongato, reliquis longitudine decrescentibus (7 *f*).

Thorax latus, subquadratus, pilosus. *Pedes antici* elongati; tarsorum articulis magnis, subtus planis et coriaceis. *Pedes intermedii* ♂ difformes, elongati; trochanteribus magnis, sub-triangularibus, obliquè truncatis; femoribus magnis, curvatis, et subtus versus basin dente magno et curvato armatis; tibiis ovalibus, marginibus ciliatis, disco coriaceo; tarsorum articulo 1mo tibiarum fere magnitudine, ad marginem densè et longè piloso, ad apicem internè penicillo longo et contorto ornato; articulo 2do penicillo graciliori ad faciem internam etiam ornato, articulis reliquis 3bus sat magnis et (præsertim ultimo) densè ciliatis (7 *h*). *Pedes postici* breviores, crassi; femoribus brevibus, curvatis; tibiis crassis, subcurvatis et irregulariter ciliatis, tarsorum articulo 1mo maximo densè piloso, reliquis minutis. *Ungues* antici et postici bifidi (7 *i*), intermedii vero

dilatati et truncati, uno ad angulum externum dentem parvum emittenti (7 k). *Alæ* anticæ angustæ, ad apicem subacutæ, cellulâ marginali angustissimâ, ad apicem appendiculatâ; cellulis tribus submarginalibus 1mâ et 2dâ parvis, nervo valde obliquo divisis; 3tiâ majori, subquadratâ; 4tâ rudimentali.

Abdomen magnum, subplanum, marginibus densè pilosis, ♂ segmentis 7.

Obs.—The situation of the genus *Xylocopa* has been the subject of much uncertainty, having been placed by Messrs. Kirby and Latreille* in different situations at various times amongst the genera of bees, and indeed by the last-named author its true affinities are held in doubt.

The insect above described clears up this difficulty in the most satisfactory manner; it has all the habitus of a *Xylocopa*, and the structure of its mouth very nearly agrees with that genus, but the extraordinary formation of the intermediate legs immediately reminds us of those of the males of *Anthophora*, and on comparing the general structure of these three genera, it will be evident that *Mesotrichia* forms a most admirable connecting link between the other two groups. The female is as yet unknown.

Species 1. *Mesotrichia torrida*, Westw.

Nigra; capite, thorace anticè, tibiis tarsisque 4-anticis albido- aut fulvo-pilosis; metatarsis posticis intus rufo-hirtis; alis fuscis, violaceo-micantibus; abdomine glabro; antennis nigris, subtus rufis, articulo primo subtus flavo; penicillis contortis pedum intermediorum nigris. ♂.

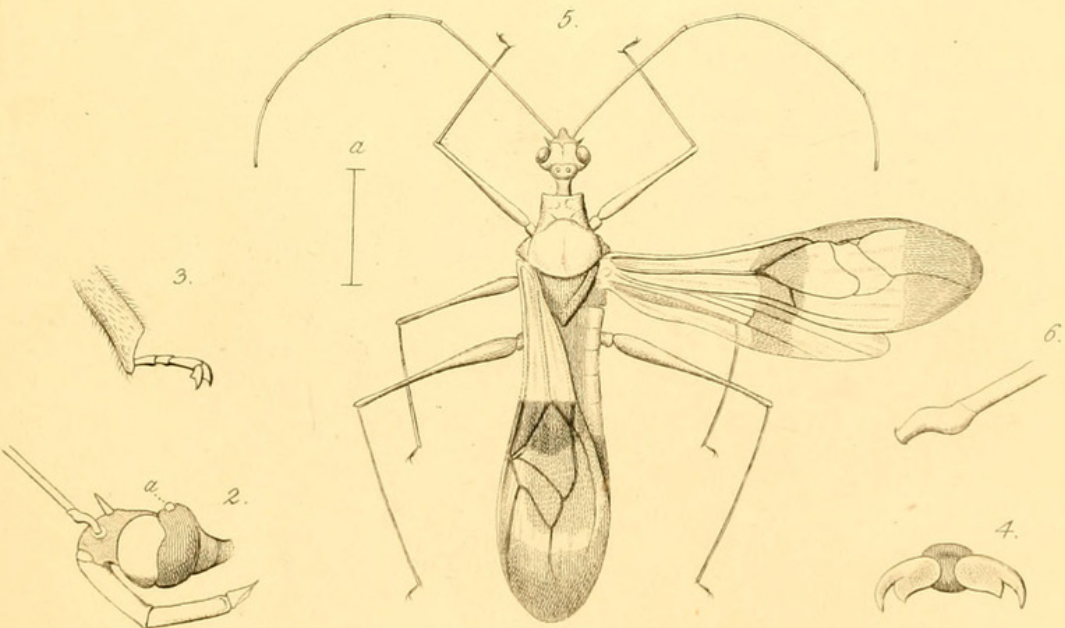
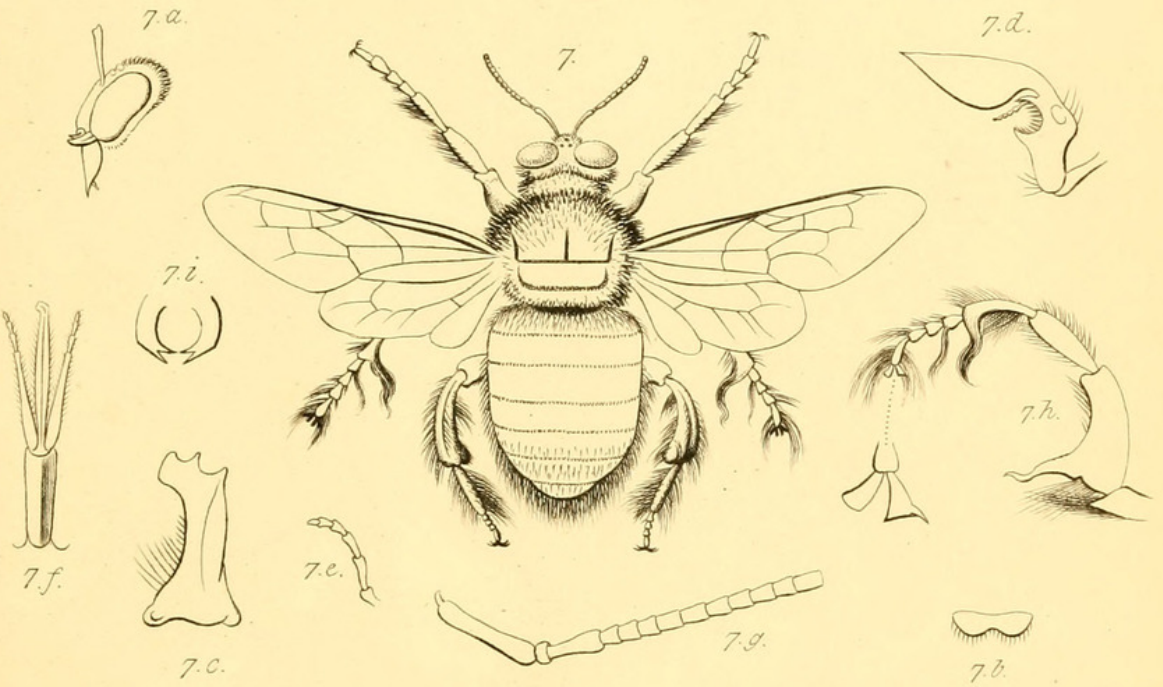
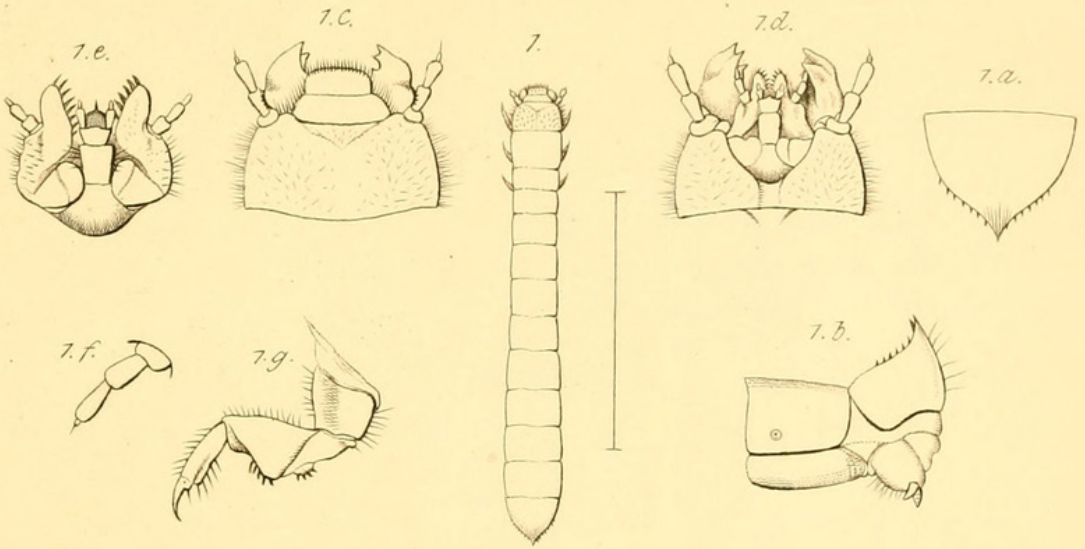
Long. corp. lin. $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Expans. alarum, lin. 26.

Habitat in Africâ tropicali occidentali.

In Mus. Soc. Ent. Londinensis (olim Kirbii), et Soc. Hist. Nat. Belfast.

* In the first edition of the Règne Animal, and in the valuable memoir upon the distribution of the bees, published in the Hist. Nat. des Fourmis, the *Xylocopæ* and *Anthophoræ* are not far apart, but in all his other works Latreille placed *Xylocopa* near the commencement, and *Anthophora* near the extremity of the bees. By Kirby in the Monographia Apum Angliæ, and by Saint Fargeau in the Encyclopédie Méthodique, the two genera are considered as more nearly allied together, but not placed in immediate conjunction together.





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