

# MONOCULUS APUS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Pedes* natatorii.

*Corpus* crusta tectum.

*Oculi* (plerisque) approximati, testæ innati.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1057.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MONOCULUS testâ convexa, antice rotundata,  
postice truncata, cauda bifida.

APUS cancriformis.

*Schæff. monogr. t.* 1—6.

MONOCULUS Apus.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1058.

BINOCULUS palustris.

*Müll. zool. dan. prodr.* 2047.

LIMULUS palustris.

*Müll. entomofst.* p. 127.

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Inter Monoculos Europæos quasi gigas eminet  
Monoculus apus: manifesta omnino sunt tum bran-  
chiæ tum alia membra, quæ adeo exigua habent  
minores

minores congeneres, ut non nisi microscopii ope possint discerni. Genus Linnæanum *Monoculus* dictum disperferunt Fabricius, Geoffrius, Mullerus, et alii nonnulli in varia genera, ab oculis diverse sitis; qui in aliis adeo appropinquant, ut unicus oculus videatur.

Fatendum sane est Monoculi titulo species aliquas minus feliciter designari. Cum tamen eadem fere aut saltem similis sit generalis partium conformatio, melius visum est Linnæano nomine jam olim recepto genus distinguere, quam novis generibus, quæ paulo licentius instituisse videntur hodierni entomologi, lectorum animis dubitationem injicere.

Subvirens, ut plurimum, Monoculus apus, interdum subrubet, aut fusco-pallet. Rara hæc species, si cum aliis comparetur, quærenda est in stagnis majoribus, et aliis ejusmodi locis. Tabula eam ostendit vera magnitudine. In Actis Anglicis proba exstat hujus insecti effigies a Kleinio descripti, qui specimen Germanicum examinaverat; cui descriptioni adjicitur quoque historia ejusdem animalculi copiosissime reperti in magna aqua apud *Bexly common* in agro Cantuariensi; quam aquam penitus exsiccatam cum subito restituisset pluvia tonitralis, duorum dierum spatio dicitur ingentes iterum occupasse eorundem insectorum catervas.

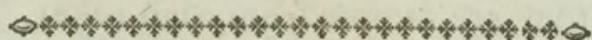








THE  
CANCROID MONOCULUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Feet* formed for swimming.

*Body* covered by a crustaceous shell.

*Eyes* (in most species) approximated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

MONOCULUS with convex shell rounded in front, truncated behind: the tail furnished with two bristle-shaped processes.

Le BINOCLE à queue en filets.

*Geoff. Hist. abr.* 2. p. 660. *pl.* 21. *f.* 4.

INSECTUM aquaticum, &c.

*Phil. Transf. vol.* 40. p. 150, &c.

*pl.* 1. *f.* 2.

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This curious insect is by far the largest of all the European Monoculi; exhibiting with great distinctness the numerous branchiæ and other parts which in the smaller species are only to be viewed by the assistance of the microscope. The Linnæan genus *Monoculus* has by Fabricius, Müller, and others been



been subdivided into different genera on account of the disposition of the eyes, which in some species are approximated, so as to appear as if single, while in others they are remote from each other. It must be confessed that the title *Monoculus* is, with respect to many of the species, rather an unfortunate one; yet since the insects which Linnæus has arranged under the genus agree sufficiently in the general structure of their several parts, it seems better to continue it as it first stood, than to create confusion by the unnecessary institution of new genera; a fault which seems to be prevailing among modern entomologists. The *Monoculus apus* is generally of a greenish cast, and sometimes of a reddish or pale brown. It is rare in comparison with many other species, and is found in large ponds and other stagnant waters. The plate represents it in its natural size. In the Philosophical Transactions may be found a good figure of this insect, with a description by Klein, from a specimen found in Germany; to which is added an account of the same animal discovered in great plenty in a pond on Bexly common in Kent. It is also added that the above-mentioned pond having been perfectly dried, and being suddenly filled during a heavy thunder-storm, swarms of the same animal were again observed in it within the space of two days.



Shaw, George. 1799. "The Cancroid Monoculus, Monoculus apus [Pl. 368]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXIII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304550>.

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