ANASTATOIDEA BRACHARTONAE GAHAN, A NEW PUPAL PARASITE OF NEPHANTIS SERINOPA MEYRICK

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A pupal parasite Anastatoidea brachartonae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) has been recorded for the first time from Nephantis serinopa Meyrick, the black-headed caterpillar pest of coconut in Kerala.

Anastatoidea brachartonae Gahan

Nephantis serinopa Meyrick, the black-headed caterpillar pest of coconut in Kerala is parasitised by about a dozen parasites. This is the first record of Anastatoidea brachartonae Gahan (Fig. 1) from the pupae of N. serinopa collected from Kayamkulam (India) during 1970.

HAMPSON. As a primary parasite, it is found to be ectoparasitic upon the prepupal larvae or the pupae of Brachartona. As a secondary parasite it has been collected from the puparia of Degeeria albiceps Macquart, Ptychomyia remota Aldrich and from cocoons of Apanteles species.

The diagnostic features of the parasite are as follows: Colour blackish; pedicel slightly bluish; face below antennae coppery mixed with purplish; a narrow strip along the eye margin metallic green; the concave posterior portion of mesoscutum marked with bluish green and coppery; mesopleura with green and purple tints in some lights, prosternum metallic green; hind margin of hind tibiae from near base to apex narrowly margined with white.

Face shagreened and clothed with short scale-like hairs and the cheeks with moderately long black bristles. Scrobe distinctly but not deeply impressed, eyes large and distinctly hairy; lateral ocelli touching the eye-margins; vertex rather narrow and clothed with black bristles; wings hyaline.
and bare at base; hind legs long, their femora compressed but not expanded, their tibiae with two unequal spurs, hind basitarsus about as long as the four following joints together, compressed into a flange behind, the flange about equal in width to the non-compressed portion; abdomen about as long as thorax, the first to third tergites more or less distinctly emarginate medially; ovipositor exerted a little more than the length of abdomen.

The percentage of parasitism seems to be very low as so far only a single parasite could be obtained out of some 2200 host pupae collected from Kerala.

Material examined:

1 female Coll. No. 1960, India: Kerala: Kayamkulam from Nephantis serinopa M. on 1970. This specimen is deposited in British Museum (Natural History) London.

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REFERENCE