

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

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

### *Anastatoidea brachartoniae* 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 brachartoniae* GAHAN (Fig. 1) from the pupae of *N. serinopa* collected from Kayamkulam (India) during 1970.



Fig. 1. *Anastatoidea brachartoniae* GAHAN

*A. brachartoniae* was first described by GAHAN (1927) from Java as a primary and secondary parasite of *Brachartona catoxantha*

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 tincts 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**

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