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Article

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A new species of *Glyptapanteles* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Microgastrinae), a larval parasitoid of *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae), along with some new host records of parasitoids from Peninsular India

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Abstract

A new species, *Glyptapanteles hypermnestrae* Gupta and Pereira, is described from Maharashtra, India, and compared with closely allied species. This new species was bred from parasitized larvae of *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). In addition to this, two hymenopteran parasitoids, *Apanteles folia* Nixon (Braconidae: Microgastrinae) and *Brachymeria indica* (Krausse) (Chalcididae), are for first time reported parasitizing larvae of *Arhopala amantes* (Hewitson) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) and pupae of *Pareronia valeria* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) respectively.

Key words: *Glyptapanteles hypermnestrae*, *Apanteles folia*, *Arhopala amantes*, *Pareronia valeria*, *Brachymeria indica*, pupal parasitoid, range extension

Introduction

The genus *Glyptapanteles* has been discussed in detail by Mason (1981), and Austin & Dangerfield (1992) studied Australasian species. The genus is cosmopolitan with about 1000 described species worldwide (Achterberg & Polszak 1996). However from India the genus *Glyptapanteles* is poorly documented. *G. spodopterae* Ahmad (Ahmad *et al*. 2009) was recently reared from *Spodoptera litura* Fab. Also *G. melanitisi* Sathe & Bhoje (2000) from *Melantis ismene* Cramer (=*Melanitis leda* L.) has been reported from Maharashtra, India. However the authenticity of the species is unknown as the whereabouts of the types are missing. *G. indica* has been described by Sathe & Dawale (1999) in addition to *G. bhupali* Sathe *et al*. (2003). The whereabouts of the type materials for *G. indica* and *G. bhupali* are unknown. Hence the new species was compared only with the previous published literature.

Glyptapanteles hypermnestrae is described as new in this paper. This new species comes under the *octonarius*–group in Nixon (1965). This species parasitizes larva of the common palmfly, *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae), which is a species of satyrine butterfly found in south Asia. The cocoons are yellow and arranged in two neat rows on the lateral sides of infected larva (Plate I, II & III).

Apanteles folia Nixon is reported for the first time from India. It was found parasitizing larvae of *Arhopala amantes* (Hewitson) (Plate IV). Thus this is a new host record. The known hosts are *Spindasis lohita* Horsfield from Malaysia, *Jalmenus evagoras eubulus* Miskin from Australia, *Luthrodes cleotas kaiphas* Fruhstorfer from New Guinea (Nixon, 1965), and *Arhopala horisana*? (Lycaenidae) Yu *et al.* 2005.

Brachymeria indica (Krausse) is first time reported from Mumbai, India as a pupal parasitoid of *Pareronia valeria* (Cramer) (Plate V). The only other known host of *B. indica* is the common jezebel, *Delias eucharis* (Drury). The previously reported Pieridae hosts of the *Brachymeria* are *Anaphaeis aurota*, *Ascia monuste*, *Eucheira socialis*, *Eurema hecabe*, *Pieris brassicae*, *Pieris protodice*, and *Pieris rapae* (Noyes, 2011).

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