

***Parapanteles rooibos*, n. sp. (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Microgastrinae): the first record of the genus from the African continent**

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Abstract

Currently *Parapanteles* Ashmead (1900) has been recorded only from the Australian and American continents. However, in this publication we describe *Parapanteles rooibos* n. sp. from the African continent. We also provide information about its ecology and biology. The species may ultimately prove to be an important natural enemy of *Isturgia exerraria* (Prout) (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Ennominae), an herbivore of the commercially produced shrub *Aspalatus linearis* (Fabaceae), from which rooibos tea is made. A hyperparasitoid, *Pediobius* sp. (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), is recorded. A key to the four currently known *Parapanteles* species is included to facilitate species identification.

Keywords: Braconidae, Microgastrinae, *Parapanteles*, taxonomy, Afrotropical region, host records, biology

Introduction

The present composition of *Parapanteles* Ashmead (1900) includes two Neotropical species: *Parapanteles aletiae* (Riley) and *P. paradoxus* (Muesebeck). During the decades following Ashmead's generic description, these species were typically assigned to the genus *Apanteles* until Mason's (1981) revision of the subfamily Microgastrinae; he revived Ashmead's generic name.

Parapanteles paradoxus was originally recorded from Costa Rica, and *P. aletiae* was recorded from the southeastern United States (Mason 1981, p. 104). *Parapanteles masoni*