

FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE PARASITOID *Gnathopleura quadridentata* (WHARTON, 1986) (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) IN MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL¹

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RESUMO

PRIMEIRA OCORRÊNCIA DO PARASITÓIDE *Gnathopleura quadridentata* (WHARTON, 1986) (HYMENOPTERA-BRACONIDAE) EM MINAS GERAIS, BRASIL

O objetivo do presente estudo é relatar a primeira ocorrência do parasitóide *Gnathopleura quadridentata* em Minas Gerais, Brasil. Mensalmente, dez amostras de esterco bovino, com uma semana de idade, foram colhidas aleatoriamente nas pastagens e transportadas ao laboratório. As pupas foram extraídas dessas amostras cinco dias após a coleta no campo. As amostras eram postas em baldes com água e retiradas com peneira e acondicionadas individualmente em cápsulas de gelatina até a emergência dos parasitóides. Obtiveram-se 40 pupas de *Oxysarcodexia thornax* (Walker) (Diptera: Sarcophagidae), das quais quatro emergiram parasitóides pertencentes à espécie *Gnathopleura quadridentata* (Wharton) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae). O parasitismo observado foi de 10%.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Insecta, Alysiiinae, inimigos naturais, esterco bovino.

The Hymenoptera is one of the largest orders of insects, and one of the most important groups of parasitoids that develop in or on immatures of other arthropods. They are of considerable importance as control agents of insects pests (Askew 1971).

Braconidae is one of the largest families with approximately 40000 species (Sharkey 1993), divided in 45 subfamilies (Achterberg 1993). The most common hosts of braconids are larvae of Lepidoptera, Coleoptera and Diptera.

The Alysiiinae is a very large subfamily of Braconidae containing over 1000 described species worldwide. All alysiines are koinobiont endoparasitoids of cyclorrhaphous Diptera (Wharton 1984). They oviposit in larvae or eggs of the host and the adults emerge from the puparia.

This specie is assigned to *Gnathopleura quadridentata* based on the following characters: the border of the mandibles between teeth 1 and 2 swollen to form a fourth tooth; parallel vein arising near upper edge of brachial cell; postnervellus well developed,

extending more than halfway towards the wing margin as a pigmented vein (Penteado-Dias 1995) and abdomen entirely black in both sexes, with only petiole and occasionally terga 2+3 orange.

The objective is to know the hosts of *Gnathopleura quadridentata*.

Ten samples of bovine dung were taken at random, each month from november 1993 to october 1994, at Uberlândia, Minas Gerais, Brazil from pats approximately one week old. They were placed in plastic containers and taken to the laboratory. Puparia were extracted by flotation in water and individually placed in gelatin capsules until emergence of adult flies or their parasitoids.

Four specimens de *Gnathopleura quadridentata* were reared from 40 puparia of *Oxysarcodexia thornax* (Walker 1849) (Diptera: Sarcophagidae). The prevalence of parasitism was 10%.

Gnathopleura quadridentata shown preference por calyptrate muscoids flies, specially sarcophagids (Shenefelt 1974). This parasitoid is solitary, and emerge

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from the puparium of host. In the genera *Gnathopleura* have been and released for the biological control of sarcophagid and muscid (Wharton 1979). Pentead-Dias (1995) collected three specimens of *Gnathopleura* sp. from vegetation and reared seven of them from puparia of *Pechia chrysostoma* (Wiedemann 1830) (Diptera: Sarcophagidae) obtained from a wet area near Miranda River, MS, Brazil.

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