

**A NEW RECORD OF *BRACON BREVICORNIS* WESMAEL
(HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) AS A PARASITOID OF *EUBLEMMA
AMABILIS* MOORE- A MAJOR PREDATOR OF LAC INSECT, *KERRIA
LACCA* KERR.**

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Abstract : *Bracon brevicornis* Wesmael has been reported for the first time as a larval parasitoid of *Eublemma amabilis* Moore a lepidopteran predator of Indian lac insect *Kerria lacca* Kerr.

Eublemma amabilis Moore, a serious predator of Indian lac insect *Kerria lacca* Kerr., lives in a complex biotic environment. Several Insect species have been reported parasitising this predator. *Bracon greeni* Ashm. and *B. hebetor* Say are among the reported larval parasitoids of *E. amabilis* the former being the most abundant, occurs regularly in lac culture infested with the predator. Another braconid, identified as *Bracon brevicornis* Wesm. by Dr. T.C. Narendran Prof. Deptt. of Zoology, University of Kerala, has been found associated for the first time with *E. amabilis* harbouring *kusmi* strain of lac insect cultured on *Protium serratum* Engl. (Syn. *Bursera serrata* Wall. Ex. Colebr). It emerged in significant numbers from the sample collected during winter crop in November '98 from Bano block of District Gumla, Bihar. Incidence of *E. amabilis* was relatively low from the sample.

B. brevicornis is cosmopolitan external gregarious larval parasitoid and has some other natural insect hosts like *Sesamia cretica* Led. (El. MANDARAWY, 1997) *Plodia interpunctella* Hbn. (SALAMA *et. al.*, 1999); *Opisina arenosella* Walk. (KAPADIA, 1987) and *Achoea janata* (Linn.) (MUTHUKRISHNAN and SENTHAMIZHSELVAN, 1987) etc. It is likely that there is frequent shift of population of *B. brevicornis* from lac culture to other agricultural crop on which its host are naturally available and vice versa. It would be interesting to study the impact of intercropping of these crops in lac growing areas on population dynamic of *E. amabilis* as *Bracon* spp. are reported to be potential bio-control agents.

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