

**Palmistichus elaeisis (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae)
Parasitizing Pupae of the Passion Fruit Pest Agraulis
vanillae vanillae (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)**

Authors: Rodríguez-Dimaté, Francisco Andrés, Poderoso, Júlio César Melo, Ribeiro, Rafael Coelho, Brügger, Bruno Pandelo, Wilcken, Carlos Frederico, et al.

Source: Florida Entomologist, 99(1) : 130-132

Published By: Florida Entomological Society

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1653/024.099.0127>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Palmistichus elaeisis (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) parasitizing pupae of the passion fruit pest *Agraulis vanillae vanillae* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

Francisco Andrés Rodríguez-Dimaté¹, Júlio César Melo Poderoso¹, Rafael Coelho Ribeiro², Bruno Pandelo Brügger¹, Carlos Frederico Wilcken³, José Eduardo Serrão⁴, and José Cola Zanuncio^{1,*}

Damage to crops by insects necessitates the use of chemical control, which, in turn, can affect predators and parasitoids (Castro et al. 2012). Therefore, either biological control or other methods of pest control that are compatible with biological control should be developed to protect crops, tree plantations, and forests from very damaging pests.

The pest *Agraulis vanillae vanillae* L. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) feeds exclusively on *Passiflora* (Malpighiales: Passifloraceae) plants (Ross et al. 2001), and *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) was reported to parasitize the pupae of another nymphalid passion fruit pest *Dione juno juno* Cramer (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) (Gil-Santana & Tavares 2006). This gregarious parasitoid has also been reported to parasitize various other lepidopteran species (Gil-Santana & Tavares 2006; Pereira et al. 2008; Tavares et al. 2012a,b, 2013). Furthermore, it can be reared with *Bombyx mori* L. (Lepidoptera: Bombycidae) (Pereira et al. 2009, 2010a,b) and *Tenebrio molitor* L. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) (Zanuncio et al. 2008). The aim of this study was to evaluate the reproductive characteristics of *P. elaeisis* reared on *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae.

This research was conducted at the Federal University of Viçosa in Viçosa, Minas Gerais State, Brazil, at 25 ± 2 °C, a photoperiod of 12:12 h L:D, and 70 ± 10% relative humidity. Thirty 4th-instar *A. vanillae vanillae* larvae were collected on *Passiflora* plants in Viçosa and placed in the laboratory on leaves of this plant under controlled conditions until pupation. Twenty *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae, 24 h old, were individualized in glass tubes (14 × 2.2 cm) plugged with cotton, and were provided honey droplets. Each pupa was exposed for 48 h to 10 mated *P. elaeisis* females, each 72 h old (Pereira et al. 2009).

The tubes, with the host pupae and parasitoids, were observed daily until offspring emerged. The duration of the life cycle, number of individuals per pupa, percentage of parasitism, progeny sex ratio (number of females / number of adults), body size, width of the head capsule, and longevity of *P. elaeisis* adults were obtained. The measurements were made with an ocular micrometer attached to a stereoscopic microscope (Pereira et al. 2010a,b). *Palmistichus elaeisis* adults were sexed based on their antennae and abdomens (Delvare & LaSalle 1993).

The percentage of parasitism and emergence of *P. elaeisis* were 95 and 90%, respectively. The life cycle (egg to adult) lasted 18.61 ± 0.32 d, and the number of *P. elaeisis* individuals per pupa was 225.53 ± 19.57. A typical parasitized pupa with emergence holes is shown in Fig. 1. The body size, the width of the head capsule, and the longevity of *P. elaeisis* females and males are shown in Table 1. The sex ratio of the parasitoids that emerged from *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae was 0.93.

The body sizes and widths of head capsules of *P. elaeisis* females and males that emerged from *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae were similar to those of individuals that emerged from *T. molitor* (Zanuncio et al. 2008), *B. mori* (Pereira et al. 2010a,b), and *Heraclides anchisiades capys* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) (Tavares et al. 2013). However, size, age, and quality of host pupae can affect the characteristics of parasitoids (López et al. 2009). The sex ratio of *P. elaeisis* from *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae was similar to those recorded from other lepidopteran pupae (Pereira et al. 2010a,b; Zanuncio et al. 2008). This relative constancy of morphological and life characteristics is due to the generalist behavior of *P. elaeisis*, which can be reared either with lepidopteran or with coleopteran pupae (Gil-Santana & Tavares 2006; Zanuncio et al. 2008).

This is the first report of *P. elaeisis* parasitizing *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae in the laboratory, and this parasitoid can be reared with this host for the biological control of this pest.

We acknowledge financial support by Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), and Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de Minas Gerais (FAPEMIG). Global Edico Services corrected and edited the English language of the submitted version of this manuscript.

Summary

Agraulis vanillae vanillae L. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) is a pest of *Passiflora* species (Malpighiales: Passifloraceae). The parasitism of *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae by *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) was evaluated. Ten 72-h-old mated *P. elaeisis* females were confined for 48 h with each 24-h-old *A. vanillae vanil-*

¹Departamento de Entomologia/BIOAGRO, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, 36570-000 Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil

²Departamento de Fitotecnia, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, 36570-900 Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil

³Departamento de Proteção Vegetal, Faculdade de Ciências Agrônomicas (UNESP), 18610-307, Botucatu, São Paulo, Brazil

⁴Departamento de Biologia Geral, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, 36570-900 Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil

*Corresponding author; E-mail: zanuncio@ufv.br



Fig. 1. Pupa of *Agraulis vanillae vanillae* with emergence holes of *Palmistichus elaeisis* adults.

lae pupa. These exposed pupae were transferred to glass tubes until the emergence of the parasitoid adults. The percentages of parasitism and emergence, number that emerged, sex ratio, body size, width of the head capsule, and longevity of *P. elaeisis* females and males were similar to those of *P. elaeisis* reared with various other hosts. These results this indicated that it is practical to rear this parasitoid with *A. vanillae vanillae* pupae to provide the parasitoid for use in biological control programs.

Key Words: biological control; parasitism; *Passiflora*

Sumário

Agraulis vanillae vanillae L. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) é praga de *Passiflora* (Malpighiales: Passifloraceae), tornando importante a busca de inimigos naturais deste inseto. Dez fêmeas de *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), com 72 horas da emergência foram colocadas por pupa de *A. vanillae vanillae* com 24 horas de idade. Essas pupas foram transferidas para tubos de vidro até a emergência da progênie do parasitoide, cujas características reprodutivas foram avaliadas. As taxas de parasitismo e de emergência, a razão sexual, o número de indivíduos de *P. elaeisis* por pupa de *A. vanillae vanillae*, o tamanho do corpo, a largura da cápsula cefálica de fêmeas e machos e a longevidade de fêmeas de *P. elaeisis* foram semelhantes aquelas desse criado com outros hospedeiros. Estes resultados indi-

cam ser possível a criação desse parasitoide com pupas de *A. vanillae vanillae* para seu uso em programas de controle biológico.

Palavras Chave: controle biológico; parasitismo; *Passiflora*

References Cited

Castro AA, Lacerda MC, Zanuncio TV, Ramalho FS, Polanczyk RA, Serrão JE, Zanuncio JC. 2012. Effect of the insect growth regulator diflubenzuron on the predator *Podisus nigrispinus* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae). *Ecotoxicology* 2: 96–103.

Delvare G, Lasalle J. 1993. A new genus of Tetrastichinae (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) from the Neotropical region, with the description of a new species parasitic on key pests of oil palm. *Journal of Natural History* 27: 435–444.

Gil-Santana, HR, Tavares MT. 2006. *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae): a new parasitoid of *Dione juno juno* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae). *Revista Brasileira de Zoologia* 23: 891–892.

López OP, Hénaut Y, Cancino J, Lambin L, Cruz-López L, Rojas JC. 2009. Is host size an indicator of quality in the mass-reared parasitoid *Diachasmimorpha longicaudata* (Hymenoptera, Braconidae)? *Florida Entomologist* 92: 441–449.

Pereira FF, Zanuncio TV, Zanuncio JC, Pratisoli D, Tavares MT. 2008. Species of Lepidoptera defoliators of eucalypt as new hosts for the polyphagous parasitoid *Palmistichus elaeisis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae). *Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology* 51: 259–262.

Pereira FF, Zanuncio JC, Serrão JE, Oliveira HN, Kellen F, Grance ELV. 2009. Progênie de *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) parasitando pupas de *Bombyx mori* L. (Lepidoptera: Bombycidae) de diferentes idades. *Neotropical Entomology* 38: 660–664.

Pereira FF, Zanuncio JC, Serrão JE, Zanuncio TV, Pratisoli D, Pastori PL. 2010a. The density of females of *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare and LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) affects their reproductive performance on pupae of *Bombyx mori* L. (Lepidoptera: Bombycidae). *Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências* 82: 323–331.

Pereira FF, Zanuncio JC, Pastori PL, Chichera RA, Andrade GS, Serrão JE. 2010b. Reproductive biology of *Palmistichus elaeisis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) with alternative and natural hosts. *Zoologia* 27: 887–891.

Ross GN, Fales HM, Lloyd HA, T. Jones T, Sokoloski EA, Marshall BK, Blum MS. 2001. Novel chemistry of abdominal defensive glands of nymphalid butterfly *Agraulis vanillae*. *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 27: 1219–1228.

Tavares WS, Hansson C, Serrão JE, Zanuncio JC. 2012a. Emergence of *Palmistichus elaeisis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) from pupae of *Thagana tibi-*

- alis* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae) collected in the medicinal plant *Terminalia catappa* (Combretaceae). Entomological News 122: 250–256.
- Tavares WS, Mielke OHH, Wilcken CF, Simon L, Serrão JE, Zanuncio JC. 2012b. *Palmistichus elaeisis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) parasitizing pupae of *Citioica anthonilis* (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) collected on *Piptadenia gonoacantha* (Fabaceae). The Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society 66: 216–220.
- Tavares WS, Soares MA, Mielke OHH, Poderoso JCM, Serrão JE, Zanuncio JC. 2013. Emergence of *Palmistichus elaeisis* (Delvare & LaSalle, 1993) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) from pupae of *Heracles anchisiades capys* (Hübner, 1809) (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) in the laboratory. Folia Biologica (Krakow) 61: 233–237.
- Zanuncio, JC, Pereira FF, Jacques GC, Tavares MT, Serrão JE. 2008. *Tenebrio molitor* Linnaeus (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae), a new alternative host to rear the pupae parasitoid *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae). Coleopterists Bulletin 62: 64–66.