



**Record of *Dolichogenidea stantoni* (Ashmead)
(Hymenoptera: Braconidae), a larval parasitoid of pumpkin
caterpillar, *Diaphania indica* (Saunders) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)**

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ABSTRACT: A new gregarious braconid endoparasitoid, *Dolichogenidea stantoni* was recorded from larvae of *Diaphania indica* infesting cucurbits in and around Bangalore. Peak parasitism was observed in the months of June and October 2003. A mean parasitism of 37.26 ± 4.01 per cent was observed. Each parasitized larva produced a mean of 16.32 ± 1.86 cocoons. The per cent emergence of adult was 82.23. The sex-ratio under field condition was more of female biased (1: 4.20).

KEY WORDS: Cucurbits, development, *Diaphania indica*, *Dolichogenidea stantoni*, sex-ratio

Diaphania indica (Saunders) is a major leaf feeder of cucurbitaceous crops. During severe infestation, it also attacks cucumber fruits. A survey was done in and around Bangalore during 2002-2003 to collect natural enemies of this pest. Larvae of *D. indica* were collected from cucumber, ridge gourd and watermelon fields and reared in the laboratory for emergence of natural enemies, if any.

A gregarious braconid parasitoid collected from the field was identified as *Dolichogenidea stantoni* (Ashmead). Several natural enemies have been reported from *D. indica* by earlier workers (Peter and David, 1990a & b, 1991, 1992a & b). Another gregarious braconid parasitoid, *Apanteles taragamae* Viereck, was reported from *D. indica* (Peter and David, 1992a). *D. stantoni* has been reported earlier as a pupal parasitoid of

Crocidolomia pavanana Fabricius (Men and Kandalkar, 2000). This is the first record of *D. stantoni* from *D. indica*.

Data on the level of parasitism, number of parasitoid emerged from each parasitized larva and per cent adult emergence was recorded from the parasitized larvae obtained from the field. The level of parasitism of *D. indica* larvae under field conditions ranged from 11.54 to 61.90 per cent during January–October 2003 with a mean of 37.26 ± 4.01 per cent. Peak parasitism was observed in the months of June and October 2003. Each parasitized larva of *D. indica* yielded 10-32 cocoons with a mean of 16.32 ± 1.86 cocoons and a mean of 13.42 ± 2.02 adults. The per cent emergence of adult was 82.23. The sex-ratio under field condition was female biased (1: 4.20).

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