

***Podagrion* sp. (Hymenoptera : Torymidae), an egg parasitoid
of mantids in Nagaland**

N. BAKTHAVATSALAM*

ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hills region
Nagaland Centre, Medziphema P.O., Nagaland - 797 106, India

ABSTRACT : The eggs of *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis* (Saussure) were parasitised by *Podagrion* sp. in Nagaland. The per cent oothecae parasitised was 28 and 40.6 during 1987 and 1988, respectively.

KEY WORDS : Egg parasitoids, *Podagrion* sp., *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*

Mantids are considered key natural enemies in suppressing pest populations (Hurd, 1985). The eggs of mantids, *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis* (Saussure) and *Mantis religiosa* (Linnaeus) were collected from maize fields in the Research Farm at Nagaland during 1987-88. The eggs of *T. aridifolia sinensis* were observed to be parasitised by *Podagrion* sp. (Torymidae). The blackish brown parasitoids emerged from 28% (n=25) and 40.6% (n=32) of the oothecae, during the years 1987 and 1988, respectively. All eggs in an ootheca were found parasitised. The average number of parasitoids that emerged from each ootheca was 214.2 and 198.2 (range 150-389) during the years 1987 and 1988, respectively. The proportion of females was more than males (51.22%).

Podagrion sp. has been reported on *Mantis* spp. from other parts of India (Mani and Kaul, 1972; Pawar *et al.*, 1985; Farooqui, 1986). The high rate of parasitization may be bringing down the population of the predator considerably in nature.

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*Present Address : Project Directorate of Biological Control, Post Bag No. 2491, H. A. Farm Post Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560 024