

Short communication

***Apanteles laspeyresiellus* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae), a new record for Iran insect fauna**

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چکیده

این تحقیق در سال ۱۳۸۵ به منظور شناسایی زنبورهای پارازیتوید لارو کرم گلوگاه انار، *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* (Zeller) (Lep.: Pyralidae: Phycitinae) در روستای حسن آباد واقع در ۵۰ کیلومتری جنوب شهر قم انجام شد. در نتیجه این تحقیق، دو گونه زنبور از خانواده *Braconidae* شامل *Bracon (Habrobracon) hebetor* (Say) و *Apanteles laspeyresiellus* Papp جمع آوری و شناسایی شد که گونه‌ی دوم برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می‌شود.

The carob moth, *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* (Zeller) (Lep.: Pyralidae: Phycitinae) is the most important pest of pomegranate fruit in Iran (Mozafarian *et al*, 2007). It also attacks to other host plants such as fig (Shakeri, 1993) and pistachio (Mehrnejad, 2002).

Because there was no previous information on larval parasitoids of *E. ceratoniae* in Iran, a study was conducted to identify the larval parasitoids in Ghom Province in 2006. Fruit samples were collected from a pomegranate orchard in Hasnabad village (located in 50 km south of Ghom city) from 23 October until 6 November. Samples were kept in a growth chamber at temperature $30 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and relative humidity of $70 \pm 5\%$ until the adult parasitoids were emerged. Two parasitoid species: *Bracon (Habrobracon) hebetor* (Say) and *Apanteles laspeyresiellus* Papp (Hym.: Braconidae) were collected and identified. The latter species is newly recorded for the fauna of Iran. The parasitoid species were identified by the last author. The specimens were deposited in the collection of the Department of Entomology at Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran.

A total of 105 adults (42 males and 63 females) of *A. laspeyresiellus* were emerged from 876 sampled larvae. The female of *A. laspeyresiellus* can be distinguished using following characters: body length (excluding ovipositor and sheaths) 2.9-3.1 mm; fore wing length 2.8-3 mm; body generally black, except palpi and legs light brown; wings hyaline, most veins nearly colourless except C, Sc, R, R1 and stigma that are brownish to varying degrees; face nearly wider than high; antennae shorter than body, filiform and 18-segmented; maxillary

palp 5-segmented; front tibia with one spur but middle and hind tibiae with two apical spurs; all tarsi 5-segmented.

The *A. laspeyresiellus* has previously been reported from Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary and Austria; however, no data are available on its biological characteristics (Anonymous, 2007). Previous investigations have shown that two larval parasitoids, *Goniozus legneri* (Gordh) (Hym.: Bethyridae) (Zaviezo *et al.*, 2007) and *Pentalitomastix plethoricus* (Caltagirone) (Hym.: Encyrtidae) (Gothilf, 1978) play an important role in the control of carob moth in the south and central America, respectively. In Iraq, six parasitoid species of *E. ceratoniae* have been reported. Of these, *Apanteles* sp. group *ultor* is determined as dominant species (Al-Maliky & Al-Izzi, 1986). Our finding may be beneficial for success in biological control of the carob moth in Iran.

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