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A New Record of *Ooencyrtus papilionis* (Hymenoptera : Encyrtidae) on the Eggs of *Papilio demoleus* (Linn.) from India*

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The citrus leaf-eating caterpillar *Papilio demoleus* (Linn.) is a key pest of citrus in India causing extensive damage especially in nurseries and to tender flushes of foliage of different citrus cultivars in the field. A number of natural enemies were recorded by earlier workers (Pruthi and Mani, 1985; Singh, 1980, 1985; Krishnamoorthy and Singh, 1986; Krishnamoorthy, 1987). During the course of observations in the campus, a large number of eggs laid by *P. demoleus* on citrus were found to be parasitised. Such eggs were brought to the laboratory and kept individually in glass tubes (7.5 x 2.5 cm) and on emergence, the parasitoids were separated based on visual characters. Subsequently, the parasitoids were indentified by Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London.

Observations revealed the presence of three parasitoids *viz. Telenomus* sp., *Trichogramma* sp. and *Ooencyrtus papilionis* Ashmead. The latter is a new record from the eggs of *P. demoleus* in India. The specimens of *O. papilionis* could be a form of *Ooencyrtus malayensis* (Ferriere) (J.S.Noyes, personal communication). Total egg parasitism was to the extent of 62 per cent, of which *O. papilionis* accounted for 56.4%. *O. papilionis* was previously known only from the Philippines where it parasitised eggs of a number of *Papilio* species (Ferriere, 1931). Recently, Tryapitsyn *et al.* (1977) also recorded it from the eggs of various papilionids from Vietnam.

Three to seven adults emerged from a single egg. Total developmental period was 11-13 days and adults lived for 5 days. *O. papilionis* readily parasitised *P. demoleus* eggs when offered, but failed to parasitise the eggs of laboratory host *Corcyra cephalonica* Stainton. *O.papilionis* had been recorded from sugarcane leafhopper *Pyrilla perpusilla* Walker by many workers in India (Rahman and Nath, 1940; Subba Rao, 1979). Vital information on its biology under constant and variable temperature on *P. perpusilla* has already been published (Madan *et al.*, 1984).

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