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NOTES ON BRACONID PARASITES OF
NARANGA AENESCENS MOORE
OCCURRING IN JAPAN
(HYMENOPTERA : BRACONIDAE)

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As far as the writer can learn three braconid species, *Apanteles ruficrus*, *Meteorus narangae* and *Rogas narangae*, have been recorded to be parasitic on the rice green caterpillar, *Naranga aenescens* Moore, from Japan*. Recently, the writer has had the opportunity to examine the material having been reared from the caterpillar by Dr. T. Hidaka. In the course of the present examination the writer has found that two other braconid species should be included in the parasite list of *Naranga aenescens*. Thus, the following five braconid parasites of the caterpillar have been known to occur in Japan.

On this occasion the writer wishes to express his sincere thanks to Dr. Terunobu Hidaka of the Tohoku Agricultural Experiment Station, Omagari, Akita-ken for his kindness in offering valuable material.

1. *Meteorus narangae* Sonan

Meteorus narangae Sonan, Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Taiwan 33: 222, ♀♂, 1934. Taiwan. Host: *Naranga aenescens*.

Meteorus narangae: Yasumatsu & Fukushima, Mushi 16: 16, 1954. Japan. Host: *Naranga aenescens*.

Specimens examined: 9 ♀♀, 23 ♂♂, 5-viii-65, Nishiki-mura, Akita-ken (T. Hidaka), reared from *N. aenescens*.

Prior to 1943 this species had been many times reported by Japanese authors as a parasite of *Naranga aenescens* under the Japanese name "*mugitawarabachi*" without giving any scientific names.

Distribution: Taiwan; Japan; Korea.

2. *Apanteles ruficrus* (Haliday)

Microgaster ruficrus Haliday, Ent. Mag. 2: 253, 1835. Europe.

Apanteles (Protapanteles) narangae Viereck, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 44: 642, 1913. Taiwan. Host: *Naranga aenescens*.

Apanteles ruficrus: Watanabe, Ins. Mats. 9: 78, 1932. Japan. Host: *Naranga aenescens*.

Specimens examined: A lot of specimens having been reared from *N. aenescens* in Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

* See: Minamikawa, J. On the Hymenopterous parasites of *Naranga aenescens* Moore. Ôyô-Kontyû 9 (4): 145-150, 1954.

This species is the most principal parasite of *Naranga aenescens* in Japan. It is widely distributed in the Old World having been known as a parasite of certain noctuid and pyralid larvae. Judging from Nakayama's paper** the *Apanteles* species stated by him as a parasite of the caterpillar under the name "*Apanteles glomeratus*" in Korea might be, in reality, identified with *A. ruficrus*.

Distribution: Cosmopolitan of the Old World.

3. *Apanteles kariyai* Watanabe

Apanteles kariyai Watanabe, Ins. Mats. 12: 41, ♀♂, 1937. North China (Manchuria). Host: *Pseudaletia unipunctata*.

Apanteles kariyai: Watanabe, Ins. Mats. 25: 97, 1963. Japan. Host: *Pseudaletia unipunctata*.

Specimens examined: 36 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, 25-viii-65 & 9 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, 18-viii-65, Omagari, Akita-ken (T. Hidaka), reared from *N. aenescens*.

This species has been known to be parasitic on *Pseudaletia unipunctata* (Howarth). In this paper *Naranga aenescens* is included in the host list of this parasite for the first time.

Distribution: North China; Japan.

4. *Rogas narangae* Rohwer

Rogas narangae Rohwer, Proc. Ent. Soc. Washing. 36: 46, ♂, 1934. Taiwan. Host: *Naranga aenescens*.

Rogas narangae: Sonan, Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Taiwan 33: 224, ♀♂, 1943. Taiwan.

Rogas narangae: Minamikawa, Ōyô-Kontyû 9: 147, 1954. Japan.

Specimens examined: 1 ♀, 19-vii-65, Nankai-mura, Akita-ken (T. Hidaka); 2 ♂♂, 30-vi-65, Nishiki-mura, Akita-ken (T. Hidaka); 1 ♀, 23-vi-65, 1 ♀, 3 ♂♂, 29~30-vii-65, & 1 ♀, 10-viii-65, Omagari, Akita-ken (T. Hidaka), all reared from *N. aenescens*.

In 1954 Minamikawa gave Japan as a locality of this species without examining any specimens actually collected in Japan. The specimens examined agree well enough with the description of the male of *R. narangae* given by Rohwer (1934) and that of the female by Sonan (1943). In these specimens, however, the body is much darker in colour than in the descriptions.

Distribution: Taiwan; Japan.

5. *Bracon onukii* Watanabe

Bracon onukii Watanabe, Trans. Sapporo Nat. Hist. Soc. 42: 65, 1932. Japan. Host: *Chilo suppressalis*.

Bracon onukii: Watanabe & Miyatake, Trans. Shikoku Ent. Soc. 3: 41, 1952. Japan. Host: *Sesamia inferens*.

Specimens examined: 3 ♀♀, 28-v-64, Shonai, Yamagata-ken (T. Hidaka), reared from *N. aenescens*.

This species has been recorded as a parasite of *Chilo suppressalis* and *Sesamia inferens*. On the basis of the specimens examined it is included in the parasite list of *N. aenescens* for the first time. In the state of the present knowledge it is impossible to know whether *N. aenescens* is an ordinary host or an accidental host of this parasite.

Distribution: Japan; Korea.

** Nakayama, S. Notes on the biology of *Naranga aenescens* Moore. Ann. Agr. Exp. Stat. Govern.-Gen. Tyosen 10: 8-31, 1938.