

ON TWO CHALCIDOID PARASITES OF LEPIDOPTERA WITH A DESCRIPTION OF *EUPELMUS TERMINALIAE*, SP. NOV.

By H. A. HAFIZ, Ph.D. (London), D.I.C. (London), Assistant Superintendent, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The officer in charge of the Horticultural Station, Krishnagar, Bengal, sent to me for identification a few live caterpillars infesting pomegranate fruit. The infested pomegranates were kept in a rearing cage on 24th March, 1936 with a view to rearing the caterpillars and on 6th April, 1936 the adults of the common Lycaenid butterfly *Virachola isocrates* F. emerged. Along with these a specimen of the Chalcidoid *Brachymeria euploaeae* (Westw.) also emerged. Although *B. euploaeae* is known to parasitise caterpillars, the present observation is, so far as I know, the first record of it as a parasite of *V. isocrates*.

Some eggs of a Lasiocampid moth found on the leaves of a country almond (*Terminalia catappa*) tree in Calcutta were brought to the laboratory and were kept in a bottle with a view to rearing caterpillars should any hatch out. After about a week, a number of specimens of a Chalcidoid parasite of the genus *Eupelmus* Dalm. were found in the breeding cage. These parasites do not agree with any of the known species of the genus and I, therefore, describe them below under the name *E. terminaliae*, sp. nov.

Eupelmus terminaliae, sp. nov.

This new species somewhat resembles *E. amphitus* Walk.¹ but differs from it by the abdomen being shorter than the thorax. It is distinguished from the other species of the genus by its very pronounced metallic green colouration.

♂—Length 2.5 mm.

General colouration metallic green. Head somewhat broader than thorax; sculpture minutely punctate; ocellular space less than the diameter of ocellus. Antennae inserted just above the lower borders of eyes, brownish basally and darker apically; scape about $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of flagellum; scapal furrow deeper than in the female. Wings hyaline. Fore-femur very dark brown; fore-tibia and tarsus light brown. Middle leg dirty white except for the femur above where it is dark brown. Hind-femur dark brown; hind-tibia lighter; hind tarsus dirty white. Abdomen about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of thorax, black.

♀—Length 2.75-3.0 mm.

General colouration very dark metallic green. Head slightly wider than thorax, metallic green and finely sculptured; ocelli small forming an equilateral triangle; lateral ones situated very close to the eye border; ocellular space less than the diameter of the ocellus. Eyes dark brown, pubescent; interocular space about $\frac{1}{3}$ the width of head; malar space about $\frac{1}{3}$ the height of head; frons finely shagreened. Antennae

¹ Walker, F., *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, XVII, p. 114 (1846).

inserted just below the lower borders of eyes, scape reaching to the front ocellus and yellowish brown, rest of antenna very dark brown, about twice the length of scape. Thorax twice as long as broad; middle lobe of mesonotum with a coppery red iridescence; mesopleura from metallic blue to metallic violet. Wings dusky, apically and basally lighter, with a purplish iridescence; veins black; submarginal and marginal veins nearly equal; postmarginal as long as stigmal. Abdomen about half as long as thorax. Ovipositor not exerted. Fore-legs dark metallic green; its tibia dark testaceous; middle and hind legs dark testaceous; mid-tarsi light aeneous; mid-tibial spur as long as meta-tarsus; tarsal dentations black; hind coxae metallic blue.

Holotype.— $\frac{1581}{H3}$, one male in spirit, Zoological Survey of India (Ind. Mus.).

Allotype.— $\frac{1580}{H3}$, one female in spirit, Zoological Survey of India (Ind. Mus.).

Paratypes.— $\frac{1582}{H3}$, six females, one dissected, in spirit, Zoological Survey of India (Ind. Mus.).

Host.—Lasiocampid Moth eggs, Coll. H. A. Hafiz, Calcutta, 24th August, 1936.