

B72 EFFECT OF SUPERPARASITISM OF THE BRINJAL FRUIT BORER  
*LEUCINODES ORBONALIS* BY THE PARASITE *TRATHALA FLAVOORBITALIS*

Manohari Perera and Jayanthi Edirisinghe  
Dept. of Zoology, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Nugegoda

Females of the parasite *T.flavoorbitalis* have been observed to insert their ovipositor several times into the host larvae of *L.orbonalis* during oviposition. This phenomenon was investigated further by permitting females to insert their ovipositor once, several times and for a specific time period, by confining them to an oviposition unit. Following a single insertion of the ovipositor either a single egg or no egg was laid in the host, while multiple insertion of the ovipositor led to either the laying of a maximum of 06 eggs/host or no eggs at all. When the same larva was exposed to the parasite for 30 min every 2h over a 12h period, females inserted their ovipositor several times during the first 4 instances. Females showed no interest in the host after 8h.

Larvae subjected to multiple insertions of the ovipositor by the parasite contained a maximum of 06 egg larvae that hatched into 06 parasite larvae in the host body. However, only one of these 06 larvae developed to the adult stage.

Thus even though *T.flavoorbitalis* superparasitizes its host, only a single adult parasite emerges from a host.

Moreover, the habit of inserting the ovipositor several times into the host does not necessarily lead to either single or multiple oviposition by *T.flavoorbitalis*.

This work is funded by NARESA grant No. RGB/83/15.