SOME FITNESS CHARACTERISTICS OF *TELENOMUS TALAUS* (HYMENOPTERA: SCELIONIDAE), AN EGG PARASITOID OF *PAPILIO DEMOLEUS DEMOLEUS* (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE)

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Eggs of the butterfly *Papilio demoleus demoleus* a pest of *Citrus* spp were found to be parasitized by *Telenomus talaus* at a site located within the University of Colombo. Taxonomic studies of *Telenomus talaus* were carried out using slide mounted preparations of the male genitalia. Biological characteristics which are indicators of fitness of insect such as fecundity, longevity and tibia length (as an indicator of body length of both sexes) were measured. Parasitoids emerging from field and laboratory parasitized hosts yielded gregariously developing clutches and female biased sex ratios. Sex ratio appears to be unaffected by the degree of crowding suffered by developing progeny within a clutch while individual body size decreases with higher crowding. Female and male longevity deffered significantly and female longevity increased with the provision of food. Time taken for development from egg to adult stage was higher for singly developing individuals than for gregariously developing individuals.