

## A new Species of the Genus *Praon* Haliday, 1833

(Hymenoptera, Braconidae: Aphidiinae)

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(With 7 textfigures)

The *Aphidiinae* are a group of parasites specific to aphids. The group is rather poorly known in India, and this is particularly true of the genus *Praon* HALIDAY, of which *P. volucre* (HALIDAY) and *P. longicorne* MARSHALL, are the only two species so far known from the Indian sub-continent (SUBBA RAO & SHARMA, 1961).

In February—March 1962, an infestation of aphids on the leaves of 'singhara' (*Trapa bispinosa*) was noticed in Hastal village, in the environs of Delhi. The infested leaves were collected and kept in glass-jars covered with muslin, and a few adults of a *Praon* sp. emerged therefrom. Detailed examination showed that it was a new species, and it is being described here as such.

### *Praon nymphaeae* n. sp.

Female: Length about 2.00 mm. Head (Fig. 1) about 0.37 mm. wide, sparsely hairy, facial line 0.36 mm., interocular line 0.32 mm., transfacial line 0.15 mm., clypeo-antennal line 0.09 mm. Antennae 15—16 segmented, about 1.40 mm. long. Thorax smooth, 0.36 mm. wide at the tegulae. Fore wing (Fig. 2) 1.96 mm. long, metacarp 0.38 mm., radius 0.34 mm., first abscissa of the cubitus and the recurrent vein almost completely effaced; nervellus not reaching the anal vein. Propodeum smooth. Petiole (Fig. 3) 0.22 mm. long, 0.20 mm. wide at the spiracles. Genitalia illustrated in Fig. 4.

Coloration: Head blackish-brown, except the lower clypeus and mouth parts which are yellowish; scape and pedicel pale brown on the upper surface, first flagellar segment yellowish for about 3/4ths of the upper surface, rest of flagellum dark brown. Thorax blackish brown except the prosternum which is yellowish brown. Tarsi brownish, rest of the legs yellowish. Abdomen blackish brown except the petiole and anterior half of the second tergite, which are yellowish.

Male: About 1.42 mm. long, antenna about 1.75 mm. long, 17—19 segmented, distinctly longer than the body. Genitalia illustrated in Fig. 5.

Coloration: Similar to the female except that the prothorax is not so yellowish as in the female, and the first flagellar segment is just slightly tinged with yellow basally on the upper surface.

*Praon nymphaeae* n. sp. comes close to *Praon volucre* (HALIDAY) which has been very well re-described by MACKAUER (1959). The former resembles

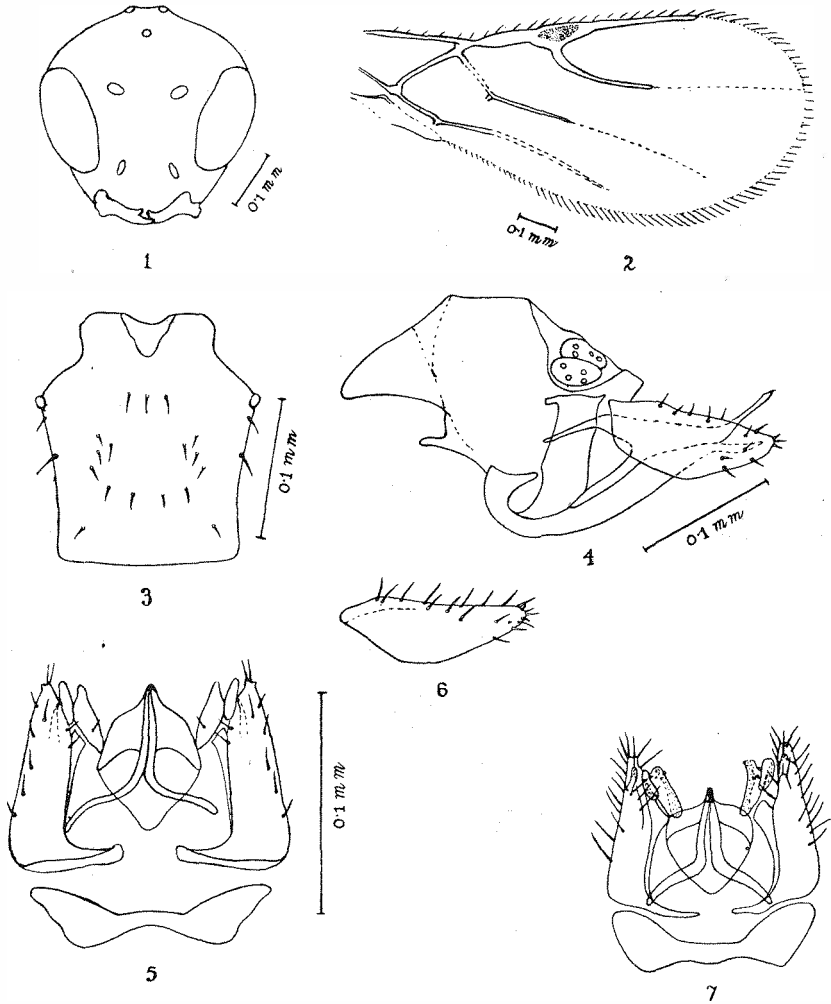


Fig. 1—4. *Praon nymphaeae* n. sp. ♀. — 1. Head, front view. — 2. Fore wing. — 3. Petiole. — 4. Genitalia.

Fig. 5. *Praon volucre* (HALIDAY). ♀ 3rd Valvula of ovipositor.

Fig. 6. *Praon nymphaeae* n. sp. ♂ Genitalia.

Fig. 7. *Praon volucre* (HALIDAY). ♂ Genitalia.

the latter in the following characters: (1) similarity in the shape of the petiole, (2) the presence of two pointed spines on the tip of the 3rd valvulae of the ovipositor, and (3) the partly yellow third antennal (= first flagellar) segment.

However, it differs from *P. volucre* in the following important respects: (1) The shape of the 3rd valvulae and the arrangement of the hairs thereon.

(The 3rd valvula of *P. volucre* is illustrated in Fig. 6., reproduced from the figure given by MACKAUER (1959) in his detailed redescription of the species). (2) The detailed structure of the male genitalia (the male genitalia of *P. volucre* is illustrated in Fig. 7, reproduced from MACKAUER [1959]). (3) The thorax is entirely dark brown in *volucre*, while in this species the prothorax is yellowish-brown.

Types: Holotype ♀. 16 segmented antenna; mounted on slide.

Allotype ♂. 19 segmented antenna; mounted on slide.

Paratypes: 2 females mounted on card-strips (16 segmented antenna).

1 female dissected, parts mounted on slides. (15 segmented antenna).

2 males in spirit. (1 with 19 segmented antenna, other with 17 segmented).

Date of emergence: 23rd—25th. March, 1962.

Collected by PRAKASH SARUP.

Host: *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (LINN.), collected in March, 1962, on leaves of *Trapa bispinosa* ('singhara'), at Hastal village (Delhi).

Types deposited in the National Pusa Collection of Insects, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-12.

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#### Summary

There is described a new species of *Braconidae*: *Praon nymphaeae* from India.

#### Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Braconiden-Art: *Praon nymphaeae* aus Indien wird beschrieben.

#### Резюме

Описывается новый вид *Braconidae*: *Praon nymphaeae* из Индии.

#### References

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