

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

***Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae): a new parasitoid of *Dione juno juno* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)**

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ABSTRACT. *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle, 1993 (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae) is recorded as parasitoid of *Dione juno juno* (Cramer, 1779) (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae) in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

KEY WORDS. Heliconiinae; Heliconiini; Nova Friburgo; parasitic wasp.

RESUMO. *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae): um novo parasitóide de *Dione juno juno* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae). *Palmistichus elaeisis* Delvare & LaSalle, 1993 (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae) é registrado como parasitóide de *Dione juno juno* (Cramer, 1779) (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae), no estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE. Heliconiinae; Heliconiini; Nova Friburgo; vespa parasita.

The heliconians butterflies, included in the tribe Heliconiini (Nymphalidae, Heliconiinae) (LAMAS 2004) use plants of Passifloraceae to oviposition and as food to their larvae (BROWN JR. & MIELKE 1972, BIANCHI & MOREIRA 2005).

Dione juno juno (Cramer, 1779) (Heliconiinae, Heliconiini) is an important plague of the passion fruit (*Passiflora* spp.) in Brazil (FANCELLI & MESQUITA 1998), occurring also in the Antilles, Guiana, Surinam, French Guiana, Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina (D'ABRERA 1984, FANCELLI & MESQUITA 1998).

Palmistichus elaeisis Delvare & LaSalle, 1993 (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae) has been recorded as a parasitoid from moths pupae of Arctiidae, Geometridae, Limacodidae, Lycaenidae, Megalopygidae, Noctuidae, Oecophoridae, Paleopodidae, Psychidae, Pyralidae and Riodinidae (NOYES 2002, BITTENCOURT & BERTI-FILHO 2004), some of them considered plagues of cultivated plants.

Some pupae of *Dione juno juno* were collected by the first author, in 11.VIII.2005 at Nova Friburgo (22°17'S, 42°29'W, 1090 m a.s.l.), Rio de Janeiro, whose larvae were bred on *Passiflora edulis* Sims, 1818 (Parietales: Passifloraceae). From two of them (Fig. 1), emerged 66 specimens of *P. elaeisis* (Fig. 2). The adults of this species lived for three days in captivity and some of the females apparently tried to lay eggs in other pupae of *D. juno juno* (Fig. 2). DELVARE & LASALLE (1993) have recorded *Palmistichus ixtlilxochitli* (Girault, 1920), from Costa Rica, as a

parasitoid of *Dione juno* and its dipterous parasitoid.

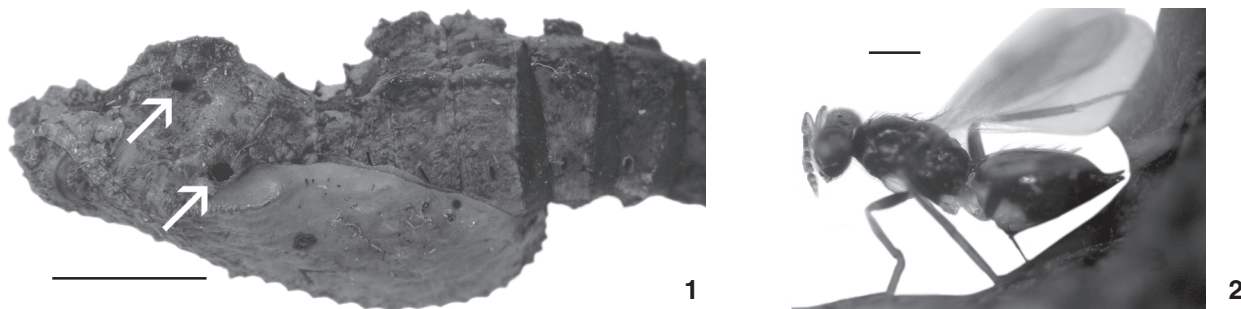
The lepidopteran species was identified based on D'ABRERA (1984) and BROWN JR. (1992) and are deposited at "Coleção Entomológica do Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro" (MNRJ). *Palmistichus elaeisis* was identified based on DELVARE & LASALLE (1993) and its voucher specimens are deposited at "Coleção Entomológica do Departamento de Ciências Biológicas da Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES).

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Figures 1-2. (1) Pupa of *Dione juno juno* showing holes of emergence of adults of *Palmistichus elaeisis*, lateral view; (2) female of *Palmistichus elaeisis*, on a pupa of *D. juno juno* in a laying-eggs behavior.

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