

## Occurrence of *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* (Cresson, 1880) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Aphidiinae) parasitizing *Aphis forbesi* Weed, 1889 (Hemiptera: Aphididae) in the strawberries crop in the Metropolitan Region of Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

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Aphids (Hemiptera: Aphididae) are considered key pests of strawberry plants (Botton et al. 2010; Cédola and Greco, 2010). Among the aphid species related to this culture, *Aphis forbesi* Weed, 1889, a monophagous species known as root aphid (Botton et al., 2010) stands out. This species develops on stems along the base of plants, often associated with ants. These ants build nests around the aphid colony, which makes chemical control and fruit harvest difficult (Salles, 2005; Botton et al., 2010).

In August 2010, eight specimens of *A. forbesi* parasitised on a strawberry plantation grown in Pinhais, PR (25° 25' S and 49° 08' W, 930 asl, Cfb climate) were collected. The parasitoids specimens were identified by Marcelo Teixeira Tavares from the Biological Sciences Department of UFES, Vitoria, Espirito Santo as *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* (Cresson, 1880) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Aphidiinae).

It is a solitary endoparasitoid of aphids distributed over five continents (Rodrigues, 2003). *L. testaceipes* is one of the most common species of Aphidiinae in South America (Starý et al., 2007). Zanini et al. (2006) reported the occurrence of *L. testaceipes* parasitising *Metopolophium dirhodum* aphids (Walker, 1849), *Rhopalosiphum maidis* (Fitch, 1856), *Rhopalosiphum padi* (Linné, 1758) and *Sitobion avenae* (Fabricius, 1775) in the wheat culture in Medianeira, Parana, Brazil. Starý et al. (2007) also reported this species and add 19 aphids species as hosts in Brazil. The use of *L. testaceipes* as a biological control agent for *Aphis gossypii* was considered promising by Rodrigues et al. (2001).

The aphid *A. forbesi* was recorded as a host of *L. testaceipes* (Cresson, 1880) as well as *Adialytus fuscicornis* (Ashmead, 1891), *Lysiphlebus fabarum* (Marshall, 1896) and *Trioxys gahani* Smith 1944 (Yu, 2010). This is the first report of the occurrence of *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* (Cresson), parasitising *Aphis forbesi* in the strawberry crop in Paraná. This record contributes to a better understanding

of the entomofauna associated with the strawberry crop and can support future work on aphids management.

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