

The species of Chalcididae (Hymenoptera) parasitoids of *Parides ascanius* (Cramer), an endangered Papilionidae (Lepidoptera) from restingas of Southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Four species of Chalcididae (Hymenoptera) associated with *Parides ascanius* (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) are presented. *Brachymeri akoehleri* Blanchard and *B. nigriritibialis*, sp. n., are recorded as hyperparasitoids through *Lespesia* sp. (Diptera: Tachinidae). *Brachymeria mnestor* (Walker) and *Conura parides* sp. n., are recorded as primary parasitoids. These are the first records of parasitoid species associated with *P. ascanius*.

Key words : species description, host relationship, parasitoid guild

Introduction

Parides ascanius (Cramer) (Lepidoptera, Papilionidae), the fluminense swallowtail, is a threatened species listed by the IUCN Red Data Book since 1983 (Wells *et al.* 1983; IUCN 2004) and by the Brazilian government since 1973 (IBDF 1973; Brasil 2003). Its larvae feed on *Aristolochi atrilobata* L. (= *A. macroura* Gómez) [Aristolochiaceae] and it lives on restinga plains, on sandy and brushed areas of subcoastal swamp habitat, from Itaguaí to São João da Barra, Rio de Janeiro State (Otero & Brown Jr. 1986; Tyler *et al.* 1994).

Aspects of the biology and ecology of *P. ascanius* were published by Otero (1984),