

New Records of the Distribution and Host of *Anthrax aygula* Fabricius from Iriomote Island, Southernmost Archipelago of Japan (Diptera, Bombyliidae)

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Abstract *Anthrax aygula* Fabricius was newly recorded as a parasitoid of *Megachile esakii* Yasumatsu from Iriomote Is., Japan (24° 20' N).

Key words : Distributional record, new host, anthracine fly, *Anthrax*, Iriomote Is.

The distribution of *Anthrax aygula* Fabricius extends quite large range, Afrotropical, Oriental and Palearctic regions (Evenhuis and Greathead, 1999). In Japan, this species is already recorded from Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and southern subtropical island, Ishigaki Is. (Liu and Nagatomi, 1995; Maeta *et al.*, 2007). Up to now, 22 host species, belonging to 11 genera and 5 families of Acuteata are known from Japan (Iwata, 1933, 1957; Nanbu, 1972; Maeta *et al.*, 2007). *Megachile esakii* Yasumatsu was recorded as a new host of *A. aygula*, as described below.

We set trap nests (reed tubes) at Ohara and Sumiyoshi, Iriomote Island (24° 20' N) in 2007 to secure prepupae of *M. esakii* for diapause experiments. Two female adults emerged in December of 2008 from cocoons which were incubated at 27°C on October 19, 2008 after cooling at 15°C for one month. Only 3 out of 294 cocoons obtained from 78 nests were infested by *A. aygula*. The parasitization rate seems to be low (3/294, 1.02%). However, a large number of cocoons were infested by *Melittobia sosui* Dahms and undetermined pathogens. Therefore, true parasitization rate was unobtainable.

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