Apanteles Taprobanae Cam.-A New Endoparasite of Castor Hairy Caterpillar, *Euproctis lunata* Walker

I. S. Patel, G. M. Patel and A. R. Pathak

Main Castor Research Station, Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar - 385 506

Castor is reported to be infested by umber of foliage pests. Among them, castor airy caterpillar is also considered one of the ajor leaf feeders of castor. It is sporadic in ature (Kushwaha and Bhardwaj, 1967, andey, 1967). The caterpillars feed egariously for some time by scratching the af surface. Under severe infestation, it also eds on capsules. Yield of the crop is astically reduced by severe attack of this st.

With a view to assess the extent of mage due to *E. lunata* W., large number of the castor germplasms supplied by Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad were grown at Castor Research Project, G.A.U., S. K. Nagar during 1994-95. During the screening of the germplasm it was found that majority of the *Euproctis* larvae were highly parasitised (90%) by braconid parasite which was later on identified as *Apanteles taprobanae* Cam. Pandey (1967) recorded 15-20 per cent parasitism due to *Apanteles colomani* V. at Udaipur. While Lateef and Reddy (1984) recorded 9.2% parasitism due to *A. inclusus* at ICRISAT. The literature revealed that no such parasite have been recorded from Gujarat. Thus it is first record of *Apanteles taprobanae* Cam. in Gujarat State.

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