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First Record of *Diplazon laetatoris* Fab. (Ichneumonidae : Hymenoptera) As a Pupal Parasite of Syrphid Fly, *Xanthogramma scutellarge* Fab. (Syrphidae : Diptera) in Gujarat State

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Mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi* L. is one of the major pests in mustard growing areas of Gujarat State. The yield losses due to aphid has estimated and ranged between 35.4 to 72.3 per cent in different agroclimatic condition in the country (Bakhetia, 1986). In nature this pest is regulated by several arthropod natural enemies viz., Lady bird beetle *Menochilus sexmaculatus, Coccinella septumpunctata, Chrysopa* spp, Braconid parasite, *Diaretiella rapae* and syrphid fly, *Xanthogramma scutellarae.* Seven species of aphidophagous syrphids have been recorded on mustard in Punjab (Kumar *et al.* 1989), while in Gujarat, four species have been found feeding on aphids (Patel and Patel, 1989). Hence, attempts were made at castor-mustard research project S. K. Nagar during 1994-95 to see the beneficial role of syrphid fly for the ecological management of mustard aphid under confined-cage condition.

With a view to have a more number of adults, pupal stages of syrphid fly were collected and released (n=100) in mustard plot covered with muslin cloth measuring 2 x 2 meter area. After a week, it was noted that most of the pupae failed to develop into adult. Another lot of field collected pupa was brought to laboratory to see its natural enemies, if any. Such pupae reared in individaul plastic tube and parasitic fly emerged out from them, were kept separately and preserved in 80 per cent alcohol. These specimens were sent to Taxonomy Section, Division of Entomology, I.A.R.I., New Delhi for identification. Later on it was identified as Diplazon laetatoris F. which is hitherto unreported pupal parasite of syrphid fly from Gujarat State. Patel and Patel (1969) have however reported *D. orientalis* as a pupal parasite of syrphid fly from Anand. Thus, this is quite first time reported from Gujarat State.

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