Parasitoid wasp *Brachymeria* sp. ovipositing on a dipteran larvae

Subject: Parasitoid wasp, *Brachymeria* sp. (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Chalcididae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Changi Coast Road, Changi Coast Track; 26 May 2015; 1420 hrs.

Habitat: Coastal parkland, under a tree along concrete footpath, on the rotting carcass of a young brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) [Aves: Accipitridae].

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: The carcass was highly infested with maggots, likely the larvae of a number of Calliphoridae and Sacorphagidae flies that were flying around. On one of a few late instar maggots that were crawling through the eye-socket of the dead bird, a wasp of the genus *Brachymeria* was observed inserting its ovipositor into the maggot's body.

The wasp was collected and preserved as a voucher specimen in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. It is shown in the photograph attached against a scale bar of 1 mm length.

Photograph by Foo Maosheng

Remarks: Some wasps of the genus *Brachymeria* are primary parasitoids of flies from the families Sarcophagidae and Calliphoridae (Marchiori & Pereira, 2002). More than one egg may be inserted into a single maggot by the female wasp. The wasp larvae feed on the maggot from the inside, but only one adult wasp will emerge when the host dies (Roberts, 1933).

References:
Marchiori, C. H., & Pereira, L. A., 2002. *Brachymeria podagrica* (Fabricius)(Hymenoptera: Chalcididae) as a parasitoid of *Chrysomya albiceps* (Wiedemann) (Diptera: Calliphoridae): first report in Brazil. *Arquivo Brasileiro de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia*. 54 (5): 555-557.
Roberts, R. A., 1933. Biology of *Brachymeria fonscolombei* (Dufour), a hymenopterous parasite of blowfly larvae (No. 163564). *United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service*.

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