

## Abstract

The pyralid *Mussidia nigrivenella*, a pest of cotton, maize and *Phaseolus* bean in West Africa, has never been reported as a crop pest in East and Southern Africa, although reportedly it exists in the wild. It is hypothesized that the difference in pest status of *M. nigrivenella* between western and eastern Africa was either due to differences in natural enemy compositions or that there exist several populations and/or species of *Mussidia*, which vary in their host plant range. Thus, a catalogue of parasitoids of *Mussidia* spp. was established through surveys in mid-altitude and coastal Kenya, between 2006 and 2007. *Mussidia* spp. eggs, larvae and pupae were collected from fruits of plants known to host *Mussidia* spp. and were examined for parasitoid-related mortality. The trichogrammatid *Trichogrammatoidea* sp. nr. *lutea* was obtained from eggs of *Mussidia fiorii*. A braconid egg-larval parasitoid, *Phanerotoma* sp., was reared from the larvae of unknown species of *Mussidia* (which we are referring to as *Mussidia* “madagascariensis”, *Mussidia* “quanzensis”) and *M. fiorii*, while the bethylid *Goniozus* sp. and the braconid [\*Apanteles\*](#) sp. were obtained from *Mussidia* nr. *nigrivenella*. Moreover, the ichneumonid larval parasitoid *Syzeuctus* sp. was obtained from *M. fiorii*, while the tachinid *Leskia* sp. was obtained from *Mussidia* “madagascariensis”. Overall, mortality caused by parasitoids was negligible; hence they were not considered key mortality factors in the population dynamics of the *Mussidia* spp. in Kenya.