

***Elenchus japonicus* (Strepsiptera: Elenchidae), a parasitoid of the rice planthoppers,
Nilaparvata lugens (Stal) and *Sogatella furcifera* (Horvath) in southeast Asia**

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Esaki and Hashimoto¹ described the strepsipteran *Elenchus japonicus* (Elenchidae) parasitic in the rice planthopper *Sogatella furcifera* (Horvath) in Japan. In 1975 Kifune and Hirashima² described *Elenchus yasumatsui* (Elenchidae) from Thailand which is also parasitic in *S. furcifera* and *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stal). Kathirithamby^{3,4} studied Elenchidae parasitizing the same two species of planthoppers in Malaysia, but as the status of this species was doubtful she referred to it as *Elenchus* sp.

In 1905 Perkins⁵ identified the species of *Elenchus* parasitic in *Liburnia* from Australia as *E. tenuicornis*, the Palearctic species described by Kirby in 1815. After studies of this species from Australia Kathirithamby⁷ described it as a new species *E. varleyi*. The hosts being *Toya drope* (Kirkaldy) and *Sogatella kolophon* (Kirkaldy). In 1989 Kifune and Hirashima⁸ described a species collected from the same region in Australia as yet another new species, *E. perkinsianus*. No host was given for this species.

Strepsiptera parasitic in the *N. lugens* and *S. furcifera* from various Southeast Asian countries and Japan were studied, and compared to the species occurring in Australia. It is concluded that *E. yasumatsui* is synonymous with *E. japonicus*.

The planthopper hosts of *Elenchus* are endemic to the tropical oriental region, and they have the ability to migrate long distances, as far north as northern Japan and Korea. Parasitization by *Elenchus* causes severe modifications in the external genitalia^{3,7,9-11}.

References

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