BIOLOGY OF ANAGRUS OPTABILIS (PERKINS)  
(HYMENOPTERA, MYMARIDAE), AN EGG PARASITOID OF DELPHACID PLANTHOPPERS"  

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Abstract  
Adult behaviours, effect of temperature on the development, effect of food and temperature on the longevity, immature stages and parasitic activity of ANAGRS OPTABILIS are investigated and presented.  

Introduction  
ANAGRUS OPTABILIS (PERKINS) was first described with specimens bred from the eggs of sugarcane leafhopper, PERKINSIELLA SACCARICIDA, which was a serious pest of sugarcane in Hawaii. This parasitoid was used as biological agent to control the sugarcane leafhopper in Hawaii (Perkins, 1905). Recently it is known to attack eggs of many other delphacids including some major pests of rice in Asia. Yasumatsu et al. (1975) and Miura et al. (1979) reported ANAGRS OPTABILIS as an important egg parasitoid of white-backed planthopper, Sogatella furcifera (Horvath), in Thailand. Miura et al. (1981) also made a remarkable field study on the parasitic activity of ANAGRS OPTABILIS in Taiwan. According to their report ANAGRS OPTABILIS attacks eggs of Sogatella furcifera, Nilaparvata lugens (Stål), and Laodelphax striatellus (Fallen) in Taiwan. In addition to the above three delphacids I have reared ANAGRS OPTABILIS from Saccharosyndne procerus (Matsumura), Zuleica nipponica (Matsumura et Ishihara) and Nilaparvata muiri China for the first time in Japan. The results of the field investigation of Yasumatsu et al. (1975, 1982) and Miura et al. (1981) have already indicated the importance of ANAGRS OPTABILIS as biological control agent in Asia and necessiated detailed biosystematical study of this parasitoid as no remarkable work has yet been done in this respect. Perkins has given a short general account of this parasitoid while
he described it but much essential information remained uncleared and untouched. So
the present study has been made to know the essential biological characters of
*Anagrus optabilis* as far as possible. Taxonomical part of this parasitoid is treated
separately along with the revisionary work of Asian *Anagrus* (Sahad & Hirashima,
1984).

**Biology of Anagrus optabilis**

**Materials and Methods**

Rearing of *Nilaparvata lugens* in the laboratory being comparatively easy, it was
used as host insect throughout the study of various biological characters of *Anagrus
optabilis*. Besides, *Anagrus optabilis* was also found to oviposit readily and develop
successfully on the eggs of *Nilaparvata lugens*. *Nilaparvata lugens* was collected from
the Kyushu Agricultural Experiment Station, Chikugo-City, Fukuoka Pref. and reared
in the laboratory similarly to that of *Nephotettix cincticeps* Uhler used for biological
study of *Gonatocerus cincticipitis* (Sahad, 1982a, b, c).

The stem and leaf cuttings of *Leersia japonica* Makino and *Zizania latifolia* Turcz.
bearing parasitized eggs of *Nilaparvata muiri* and *Saccharosydne procerus* respectively
were collected from river and canal side and reared in the laboratory to obtain stock
of *Anagrus optabilis*. These wasps were continuously bred on eggs of *Nilaparvata
lugens* until the experiment was over. Sometimes they were collected from the field
by sweeping net and brought them to the laboratory alive taking in small test tube and
then bred on the eggs of *Nilaparvata lugens* as usual. Other materials and procedures
for rearing hosts and parasitoids, and conducting experiment were also similar to those
used for biological study of *Gonatocerus cincticipitis* (Sahad, 1982a, b, c).

**Adult Behaviours**

*Mating*. Both male and female are ready to mate immediately after their emer-
gence although female can reproduce parthenogenetically. Male ‘moves around in
search of female after emergence. It becomes excited while it finds the female and
then grasps the female by the legs from the back and bends down the gaster to intromit
the aedeagus into the female gonopore. Usually during first mating the female shows
certain eagerness but once mated it refuses for the second time. It takes 15-20 seconds
per mating. While there are more than one male in a rearing test tube and only one
virgin female is released into it, 3 or 4 males mount on the female at a time.

*Oviposition*. Immediately after release in the seedlings the female parasitoid
begins to move over it in search of host eggs by drumming with the antennae. While
it comes across with host eggs, it gets excited and makes very rapid palpation over the
eggs, probably to confirm existence of host eggs. After locating the host eggs by
antenna it lies over them stretching its legs by the side of the egg mass and keeps the
ovipositor on the egg mass and makes some shallow insertions of ovipositor into the
host eggs, probably for further confirmation of the host eggs. After confirmation of
the existence and suitability of the host eggs, it inserts the ovipositor into the host egg almost at right angle with the host plant and after 4 or 5 minutes it pushes the ovipositor up to its base for actual delivery of egg. It takes 8-10 minutes for one oviposition but takes almost no interval between two successive ovipositions while fresh eggs are available adjacent to it. It changes its face to opposite direction very swiftly on the same egg mass after every insertion. Oviposition may continue for 8-10 hours without any interval. It does not leave the egg mass until all the eggs are parasitized. Even after completion of parasitization of the entire egg mass the parasitoid does not leave the place and repeatedly checks the egg mass to find healthy eggs.

**Superparasitism.** During study of the larval development several hundreds of parasitized eggs were dissected and usually one egg or larva was found per host egg. While many parasitoids were exposed to small number of host eggs in a test tube, sometimes two eggs or two larvae were observed in such a host egg but never more than one adult was found to emerge from a single egg. Thus it may be concluded that *Anagrus optabilis* is a solitary primary parasitoid.

### Reproduction

**Fecundity.** *Anagrus optabilis* can reproduce zygogenetically and parthenogenetically. In case of mated female both female and male offsprings are developed from eggs laid by the female, the former being highly dominant. To determine the egg producing ability 10 mated females were released in 10 separate test tubes containing paddy seedlings bearing host eggs. Host eggs were changed everyday until the death of the parasitoid. The oviposited eggs were kept in the incubator at a constant temperature of 25°C. The number of emerged wasps plus dead pupae within the host eggs was regarded as the number of eggs laid per female. To determine the number of dead pupae, the paddy seedlings were dissected to count them after the elapse of normal emergence period of the wasp. On an average 10.1% of the total offsprings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>No. of Parasitoids</th>
<th>Total Parasitoids</th>
<th>Sex ratio Female : Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Estimated number of eggs laid by 10 mated females of *Anagrus optabilis* and their sex ratios.
Table 2. Estimated number of eggs laid by 10 unmated females of *Anagrms optabilis*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Estimated no. of eggs laid per female</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of each female was found dead in the last stage of pupa. This seems to be due to rotting or drying off host plants. The total number of eggs laid by 10 females was 461, the average per female and range being 46.1 and 27 to 66 respectively (Table 1).

**Sex ratio.** The sex ratio of the offsprings developed from eggs laid by the 10 mated females were determined. In each case female outnumbered the male to a greater extent. The highest and lowest ratios between females and males were 9.2 : 1 and 1.8 : 1 respectively, the mean ratio being 4.6 : 1 (Table 1).

**Parthenogenesis.** Fecundity and mode of parthenogenetic reproduction of 10 unmated females were studied. On an average the number of eggs laid by an unmated female was 34.2 with range 20 to 54 (Table 2) showing no significant difference with that of mated females. All the offsprings emerged from the eggs of unmated females were males. Thus *Anagrms optabilis* is also an arrhenotokous parasitoid like that of *Gonatocerus cincticipitis* (Sahad, 1982a, c).

**Effect of Temperature on the Development**

The development of *Anagrms optabilis* from egg to adult was investigated at 10°C, 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C constant temperatures. Considerable number of host eggs after exposing to the parasitoids for three hours were kept in temperature controlled cabinet at 10°C, 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C with 14 hours photoperiod.

Table 3. Effect of temperature on the development of *Anagrms optabilis*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature °C</th>
<th>No. of emerged adults</th>
<th>Duration of development</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Rate of development (l/Day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>49.47±0.01</td>
<td>48-58</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>24.300.07</td>
<td>24-28</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>14.500.03</td>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>0.068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>10.800.06</td>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>0.093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developmental periods were found to decrease as the temperature increased from 15°C to 30°C. The times taken for the development from eggs to adults were 49.5, 24.3, 14.5 and 10.8 days at 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C respectively (Table 3). At 10°C eggs could hatch but the larvae could not develop beyond pupa. The threshold of development was found to be 11.3°C for female (Fig. 1). Based on this thermal constant was calculated to be 199.6 degree-days.

Fig. 1. Effect of constant temperature on the development of *Anagrus optabilis*.

**Effect of Food and Temperature on the Longevity of Adult *Anagrus optabilis***

The longevity of a natural enemy under various conditions is of vital importance for its ability. The greater is the longevity the higher is the ability. The longevity is influenced by climate, temperature and food. Thus it is essential to know the longevity of *Anagrus optabilis* under different conditions. The longevity of *Anagrus optabilis* was investigated at controlled temperatures of 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C with honey and water, and only water as food. Twenty individuals of each sex were studied separately at each temperature. Newly emerged adult parasitoids were taken in a short test tube, one end of which was closed by cotton stopper and the other end by 65:35 tetron-cotton cloth with the help of a metal ring. A few droplets or streaks of concentrated honey were provided inside the upper end of the test tube and water was made available by soaking cotton stopper of lower end. They were then kept in 4 separate cabinets set at above mentioned temperatures. Two observations were taken.
Table 4. Effect of food and temperature on the longevity of adult *Anagrus optabilis*
(average in days).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of food</th>
<th>15°C Male</th>
<th>15°C Female</th>
<th>20°C Male</th>
<th>20°C Female</th>
<th>25°C Male</th>
<th>25°C Female</th>
<th>30°C Male</th>
<th>30°C Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honey &amp; water</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water only</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

everyday at an interval of 12 hours.

In both sexes longevity increased as the temperature decreased from 30°C to 15°C. The longevity was minimum at 30°C and maximum at 15°C. While honey and water were supplied as food, the longevity of female was longer than that of male at all temperatures but while only water was supplied as food the male survived longer than the female at all temperatures (Table 4). The reason may be similar to that of *Gonatocerus cincticipitis* (Sahad, 1982a, c) that is female requires more nutrient than male for survival as it produces eggs. Remarkable difference between the longevities of male and female was observed at 15°C while honey and water were provided as food. The average longevities of male and female were 11.2 and 14.2 days respectively at 15°C while honey and water were supplied as food. There was very slight difference between the longevities of male and female at 30°C in case of either food. Survival percentages of the parasitoids at different temperatures and foods are shown in the Fig. 2.

![Fig. 2. Effect of food and temperature on the longevity of adult *Anagrus optabilis.*](image)
Immature stages were studied by dissection and alive specimens at 25°C.

_Egg_. The egg is sausage-shaped with a long slender pedicel. The pedicel is slightly more than 1/3 of the total length of the egg. The length and breadth of an ovarian egg are 0.15 mm and 0.02 mm respectively and those of an egg after 2 hours of oviposition are 0.16 and 0.03 respectively (Fig. 3A & B). The egg increases in size during incubation and proportional increase in width is greater than that of length. It increases about 2 times in width and 1/4 in length before hatching. Increase in width at the first-half of egg stage is very slow compared to the second-half. The length and breadth of an egg after 14 hours of oviposition are 0.16 mm and 0.04 mm respectively and those of a mature egg before hatching are 0.20 mm and 0.06 mm respectively (Fig. 3C & D). In mature egg the oval-shaped embryo is visible through the chorion. Because of excessive increase of embryo, chorion expands to its maximum size forcing pedicel to bend down. As mandibles or any movements of the embryo are not observed prior to hatching, it is thought that chorion is ruptured by the expanding pressure of the embryo below the pedicel and moves slowly to the caudal part. The developmental period of egg from oviposition up to hatching is 1-1.25 days.

_First instar larva_. The 1st instar larva is sacciform, unsegmented, smooth and completely motionless (Fig. 4A). The chorion always remains attached to the caudal part of the larva, probably it is not detached from the body as it does not move at all. As first instar larva is inactive, it is guessed that it takes food materials by diffusion.
Fig. 4. First instar larva showing the attachment of cast chorion with the caudal end. A. Early stage; B & C. Middle stage; D. Last stage. Scale: 0.05 mm for all.

through the skin. The size of a just hatched larva is 0.13 mm in length and 0.06 mm in breadth. The larva is slightly constricted posteriorly, which appears like a caudal tubercle. At the caudal part four needle like processes may be visible, lateral two seem to indicate the caudal processes and median two may indicate the proctodeum. At early stage mandibles of cephalic processes can hardly be observed but as the larva very slowly increases in size, they become visible, and also caudal segment of the larva
becomes distinct (Fig. 4B & C). The bag-shaped larva changes as it approaches near second moult and both cephalic and caudal ends slightly slantingly protruded (Fig. 4D). The size of a full grown first instar larva is 0.20 mm and 0.07 mm in length and breadth respectively. The 1st instar larval period is 1 day.

*Second instar larva.* The 1st instar larva enters into 2nd instar on the 2nd day after hatching. The 2nd instar larva is somewhat cylindrical compared to the 1st instar larva (Fig. 5A-D). The length and breadth of early stage of 2nd instar larva are 0.33 and 0.88 mm respectively. One pair of long slender mandibles and one pair of cylindrical processes are clearly found at the cephalic end. Similar to cephalic processes but slightly short and conical one pair of processes is attached to the caudal segment. The cephalic processes are considered to give rise to antennae but the function of caudal processes is not known. The caudal processes gradually vanish as the larva develops and completely disappear from the full grown larva before entering into pupa while mandibles and cephalic processes are clearly visible (Fig. 5D). At the initial stage larva remains slightly sluggish for 2 to 3 hours and then gradually becomes very active in movement and feeding the yolk spheres of the host through the mouth. Ingested yolk spheres are visible inside the digestive tract. By the 1st day of the 2nd stadium the larva fills 3/4 of the host egg and by the 2nd day it completes feeding of entire yolk spheres and occupies whole space inside the host egg except some part at the cephalic end (Fig. 6A). Peristaltic movement starts at short interval as soon as
feeding is completed. This movement seems to appear help digestion of the ingested yolk spheres. By the end of the 2nd day of the 2nd stadium the larva also develops whitish red color due to the change of color of fat cells inside the alimentary canal. The following day the larva becomes clear red and shows development of 5 or 6 irregular streaks of red fat cells. By the end of 3rd day 25 to 30 dull white concretions are developed inside the digestive tract. These concretions seem to be the digested yolk spheres. At this time in addition to the peristaltic movement occasional right and left rotatory movement also develops. On the 4th day peristaltic movement completely ceases but rotatory movement continues which also becomes very feeble gradually indicating its approach towards prepupa while whitish concretions remain as it is and red color becomes deeper. The length and breadth of mature 2nd instar larva are 0.68 and 0.16 mm respectively. The developmental period of the 2nd instar larva is 4 days.

**Prepupa.** By the end of the 4th day of 2nd stadium larva shows complete cessation of movement indicating entry into prepupa (Fig. 6B). White concretions are still visible inside the digestive tract. At this stage color becomes vivid red which can be easily recognized by the naked eyes. By this unique color character parasitized and unparasitized eggs can be easily distinguished. Prepupal period lasts for only 1 day.
**Pupa.** Larva enters into pupa on the 7th day of larval life. Whitish concretions disappear from digestive tract and deposit in the hind gut as a lump of white substance which is considered as waste product (Fig. SC). Development of brownish red eyes and pinkish ocelli becomes clear on the 8th and 9th days respectively while pupa can be distinctly differentiated into head, thorax and gaster. Transparent antennae, legs and wings become visible on the 10th day. Red color continues up to the 12th day after which it abruptly changes to yellowish red and sclerotization becomes distinct. Sclerotization of all organs completes by the 13th or 14th day of pupal life and general color becomes dull brownish yellow. At this stage the head of pupa with protruded mandibles looks like the beak of a bird (Fig. 6D). Emergence starts from the 14th to 15th day. The adult emerges by making a round hole in the egg shell of host and leaf sheath or stem of host plant with the help of mandibles. Pupal period ranges from 7 to 8 days.

**Overwintering**

Some leaf cuttings of *Zizania latifolia* bearing overwintering eggs of *Saccharosydne procems* were collected from the bank of Suegawa, Harada, Fukuoka-City, on 1. xii. 1982, while the average daily temperature was below the developmental threshold of *Anagrus optabilis*. These leaf cuttings were dissected to check if there was any parasitized egg but externally no symptom of parasitization was visible. These dissected-out eggs were taken in petri dish and kept in the incubator at 25°C for the development of parasitic larva if there was any. These were checked everyday to observe any change. On the 6th day 3 eggs became yellowish red and movements of parasitic larvae were clearly detected inside the eggs. After three weeks 2 female *Anagrus optabilis* emerged from them. Thus it is understood that *Anagrus optabilis* overwinters as egg or first instar larva in the eggs of *Saccharosydne procems* laid in *Zizania latifolia*.

**Parasitic Activity in Laboratory and Field**

Observation on the parasitic activity of *Anagrus optabilis* was made in the laboratory and field. Its parasitic ability on *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* was tested in the laboratory and on *Saccharosydne procems*, *Zuleica nipponica* and *Nilaparvata muiri* was investigated by collecting stem and leaf cuttings of the respective host plants from the field.

*Laboratory observation.* *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* were reared on paddy seedlings in the insectary for using as stock. Paddy seedlings were grown in small pot of 10 cm in diameter. Seedlings grown up to 8-10 cm long were taken in small insect cage, 24 x 10 cm, and then 30-40 female planthoppers were released into it and they were allowed to lay eggs for 24 hours. Four or five seedlings bearing 24 hours-old host eggs were transferred to a long test tube and then two female *Anagrus optabilis* were exposed to it for three days. The parasitized eggs
were kept in the incubator at 25°C. This treatment was given to all the three host species and five replications were taken for each host. After the elapse of normal emergence period the host seedlings were dissected to count the dead larvae and pupae of parasitoids and dead eggs of the host insects.

Parasitized eggs were calculated by the number of emerged wasps plus dead larvae and pupae of the parasitoids, and the host eggs were calculated by the number of parasitized eggs plus hatched nymphs and dead eggs. Percentage of parasitism was calculated by the formula, 

$$\frac{A + B}{A + B + C + D} \times 100$$

where A= number of emerged wasps, B= number of dead larvae and pupae, C= number of hatched nymphs and D= number of dead eggs. **Anagrus optabilis** parasitized the eggs of *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* with almost equal efficiency. Percentage parasitism of **Anagrus optabilis** for *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* were 86.7, 79.6 and 70.5% respectively (Table 5).

### Table 5. Parasitic activity of Anagrus optabilis in the laboratory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of planthopper host plant</th>
<th>Name of host plant</th>
<th>No. of egg exposed</th>
<th>No. of egg parasitized</th>
<th>% parasitism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Nilaparvata lugens</em></td>
<td>paddy</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sogatella furcifera</em></td>
<td>paddy</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>79.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Laodelphax striatellus</em></td>
<td>paddy</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field observation.** Natural parasitization of **Anagrus optabilis** on the eggs of *Saccharosydne procerus* and *Zuleica nipponica* was first detected from host plant, *Zizania latifolia*, collected from Chikugo-City, Fukuoka Pref. on 29. viii. 1981. Later on it was recorded from the same host insect and host plant collected from the bank of Suegawa, Harada, Fukuoka-City. Parasitic activity of **Anagrus optabilis** was investigated by collecting leaf and leaf sheath cuttings of *Zizania latifolia* from this locality. Ten leaf and leaf sheath cuttings of *Zizania latifolia* were taken at random each time at different dates. These were kept in the incubator at 25°C taking in the test tube and petri dish. Percentage parasitism of **Anagrus optabilis** for the eggs of *Saccharosydne procerus* was not so remarkable although their eggs were abundant. The mean percentage parasitism was 5.4% (Table 6). The reason of low percentage of parasitism is the unusual ovipositing character of *Saccharosydne procerus*. After ovipositing it covers the eggs with white mealy substance so as to protect them from the attack of parasitoid. However, some eggs remain partially covered or almost uncovered among a group of covered eggs. These uncovered or partly covered eggs are vulnerable to the attack of parasitoid.

Percentage parasitism of **Anagrus optabilis** for the eggs of *Zuleica nipponica* was also not so high. Of course the populations of *Zuleicanipponica* was greatly lower
Table 6. Parasitic activity of Anagrus optabilis in the field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of planthopper</th>
<th>Name of host plant</th>
<th>No. of egg exposed</th>
<th>No. of egg parasitized</th>
<th>% parasitism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saccharosydne procercus</td>
<td>Zizania latifolia</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuleica nipponica</td>
<td>Zizania latifolia</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ni laparvata muiri</td>
<td>Leersia japonica</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

than those of Saccharosydne procercus but percentage parasitism for its eggs was considerably higher than that for Saccharosydne procercus. Percentage parasitism for its eggs was 23.5 %.

Although both Zuleica nipponica and Saccharosydne procercus lay eggs together on the same host, Zizania latifolia, their eggs can be recognized without much trouble because of their characteristic behaviour of oviposition. Besides covering the eggs with white mealy substance another character of Saccharosydne procercus is to lay eggs on both the upper and lower surfaces of the mid rib of leaf and leaf sheath, specially on the basal part of leaf and upper part of leaf sheath. Zuleica nipponica usually lay eggs at the basal part of the host plant and eggs remain uncovered.

Parasitized eggs of Nilaparvata muiri laid in Leersia japonica were collected from river and canal side from time to time. They were reared in the laboratory at 25°C as usual and emergence of Anagrus optabilis was recorded from them. Dead larvae, pupae and host eggs were counted by dissecting the stem cuttings in order to determine the percentage parasitism. The mean percentage parasitism for its eggs was 17.3 % (Table 6).

Host range of Anagms optabilis. Above mentioned laboratory and field observations indicate that host range of Anagms optabilis in large. Until now it has been recorded to develop successfully on the eggs of Nilaparvata lugens, Sogatella furcifera, Laodelphax striatellus, Saccharosydne procercus, Zuleica nipponica and Nilaparvata muiri. This result of breeding of Anagms optabilis on the eggs of above six species of planthoppers indicates that this parasitoid may have more number of hosts in nature. In Hawaii, Perkinsiella saccharicida is reported to be one of its best hosts. Thus Anagrus optabilis is not host specific, it is highly cosmopolitan in respect of host selection.

Eggs of Nephotettix cincticeps were supplied to Anagms optabilis many times but parasitization was not successful. After the expiration of normal period of emergence the exposed host eggs were dissected and once some dead pupae of Anagrus optabilis were found. The reason of death could not be ascertained.

Discussion

Anagrus optabilis has wide range of host and distribution. In Hawaii it was
recorded as an effective egg parasitoid of sugarcane leafhopper, *Perkinsiella saccharicida* (Zimmerman, 1948). Miura et al. (1981) observed it to be a dominant egg parasitoid of rice pests, *Sogatella furcifera*, *Nilaparvata lugens* and *Laodelphax striatellus*, in Taiwan. They observed the mean percentage parasitism of this parasitoid for individual eggs of *Sogatella furcifera* from 9 localities as 31.7% ranging from 34.0 to 100%, and that of *Nilaparvata lugens* from 9 localities as 19.6% ranging from 2.4 to 43.9% and *Laodelphax striatellus* from 14 localities as 30.5% ranging from 12.4 to 60.0%. Laboratory investigation on the parasitic activity of *Anagrus optabilis* showed that it equally and effectively parasitized the eggs of *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* (Table 6). Its natural parasitization of eggs of *Saccharosyndene procerus*, *Zuleica nipponica* and *Nilaparvata muiri*, which are pests of indigenous grasses, is not remarkable (Table 6). These clearly indicate that *Anagrus optabilis* is a dominant parasitoid of delphacid pests of economic field crops, paddy and sugarcane.

Because of its wide range of host and distribution, it is thought to be adaptive to the climate of any parts of Asia, where *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera* and *Laodelphax striatellus* are serious pests of economic crops. Besides, it has great chance of survivability and propagation of generation even when populations of one or two host species are not available. Its mass production is also relatively easy. Hence this parasitoid may be used as biological control agent in case of outbreak of the above pest populations.

The second instar larval form of *Anagrus optabilis* resembles the “histriobdellid” stage of *Polynema* sp. described by Ganin (1869). The *Polynema* sp. is believed to be mistakenly used by Ganin in stead of *Anagrus* sp. as indicates by his figures which show complete similarity to *Anagrus* (Henriksen, 1922; Bakkendorf, 1934; Clausen, 1940; Debauche, 1948). Perkins (1905) reported that he did not find “histriobdellid” (i.e., histriobdellid form of second instar) in *Paranagrus (= Anagrus) optabilis* but he observed a third form somewhat resembling Ganin’s description of *Polynema* sp. while he mentioned nothing about the early stage of larva or first instar larva. I examined several dozens of larvae of *Anagrus optabilis* by dissection and always found saciform and motionless 1st instar larva and “histriobdellid” stage (i.e., 2nd instar larva) having both cephalic and caudal processes, the latter disappeared as the larva reached maturity. Thus either Perkins had mistaken in detecting the “histriobdellid” stage with caudal processes in early stage of 2nd instar larva in *Anagrus optabilis* or the Asian specimens of *Anagrus optabilis* vary in larval character in comparison with Hawaiian specimens, indicating the possibility of former to be a separate species but adults of *Anagrus optabilis* of these two regions show no recognizable difference except color. For adult character of Hawaiian *Anagrus optabilis* I had to depend on the original description as its type materials had been reported to be missing. Although on the basis of larval character, adult color and mode of parthenogenetic reproduction, Asian *Anagrus optabilis* differs from that of Hawaii, I cannot recognize it as a new species due to lack of distinctive adult character.
Summary

Biology of *Anagrus optabilis* is studied and the results are summarized as follows:

1. *Anagrus optabilis* is a solitary primary parasitoid.
2. Its immature stages were investigated at 25±1°C. There are two instars in its larval life. First instar is bag-shaped or ovoid and second instar larva is "histriobdelid" form. The egg, 1st instar, second instar, prepupa and pupal stage last for 1-1.3, 1, 4, 1 and 7-8 days respectively.
3. Developmental period increases as the temperature decreases from 30°C to 15°C. The developmental periods from egg to adult are 49.5, 24.3, 14.5 and 10.8 days at 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C respectively. The threshold of development and thermal constant are 1.3°C and 199.6 degree-days respectively.
4. Longevity increases as the temperature decreases from 30°C to 15°C. While honey and water were provided as food, longevity of female was longer than that of male at all temperatures of 15°C, 20°C, 25°C and 30°C but this was reverse while only water was supplied as food.
5. It can reproduce by both gamogenesis and parthenogenesis. It requires no preoviposition period. A mated female lays 46 eggs on an average. It is an arrhenotokous parthenogenetic parasitoid.
6. Its host range is wide. Six hosts, *Nilaparvata lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera*, *Laodelphax striatellus*, *Saccharosyndne procerus*, *Zuleica nipponica* and *Nilaparvata muiri*, are recorded. Percentages of parasitism for *N. lugens*, *S. furcifera* and *L. striatellus* were 86.7, 79.6 and 70.5 % respectively in the laboratory and those for *S. procerus*, *Z. nipponica* and *N. muiri* were 5.4, 22.5 and 17.3 % respectively in the field.
7. It overwinters in egg or larval stage in the egg of *Saccharosyndne procerus*.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Prof. Yoshihiro Hirashima, Entomological Laboratory, Kyushu University, for his encouragement and guidance during this study. I would like to express deep sense of appreciation to Assoc. Prof. K. Morimoto and Assoc. Prof. Y. Murakami for the interest they have taken in helpful discussion of various problems and invaluable advice they have given in this respect. I am also greatly indebted to Dr. 0. Tadauchi of Kyushu University for his various helps and suggestions for this study.

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