A NEW HOST RECORD FOR BLAESOXIPHA RUFIPES (DIPTERA: SARCOPHAGIDAE) ON ATRACTOMORPHA LATA (ORTHOPTERA: PYRGOMORPHIDAE) FROM JAPAN

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Blaesoxipha rufipes (Macquart) (Diptera: Sarcophagidae) is widely distributed in tropical Africa, Asia, Australasia, and Europe. It uses various grasshopper and locust species as its hosts (Anene and Vajime, 1990; Pape, 1994; Baker and Barchia, 1997) and was tested as an agent to control grasshoppers in North America (Rees, 1985). There are many reports including ecological information on parasitism by B. rufipes. For example, in Sahel and Savanna zones of northern Nigeria, of 2363 adults and 1340 nymphs of Oedaleus senegalensis Krauss (Orthoptera: Acrididae) dissected over three years, only 36 adults were parasitized by B. rufipes (Anene and Vajime, 1990). On the other hand, there are very few reports on B. rufipes in Japan including ecological information, such as its hosts, although B. rufipes has been recorded in Japan (Kurahashi, 1964). This report describes the discovery that B. rufipes parasitized Atractomorpha lata (Motschulsky) (Orthoptera: Pyrgomorphidae) in Japan.

We collected 138 adults (47 females green morph, 5 females brown morph, 82 males green morph, and 4 males brown morph) of A. lata in a field at the Center for Ecological Research (CER), Kyoto University, Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan (34°58’13" N, 135°57’27" E), in late October 2009. These adults were reared in groups of three females or five males in 430-ml clear plastic cups at room temperature at CER. They were fed Artemisia princeps Pamp. (Asteraceae). Two fly larvae emerged from one intact female adult grasshopper of the green morph on 27 October. Each larva was placed in a separate 120-ml clear plastic cup with soil for pupation at room temperature. One female adult fly emerged on 9 May 2010. The fly specimen is now deposited in CER, and will be deposited at the National Museum of Nature and Science.

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