

Some aspects of mating behaviour of Eumenidae wasps (Hymenoptera)

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The purpose of the present study was to compare the mating behaviour of four eumenid species, *Ancistrocerus antilope* (Panzer), *Symmorphus allobrogus* (Saussure), *Symmorphus murarius* (Linnaeus) and *Discoelius zonalis* (Panzer). The wasps were reared from trap-nests; pairings were observed under bell-glass. In total 312 pairings were observed. Three behavioural categories were scored: duration of the male courtship (including mounting, antennating and copulatory attempts), duration of copulation, and duration of the post-copulatory mate guarding. Statistically significant inter-specific differences of these mating phases were found.

Key words: Eumenidae, *Ancistrocerus*, *Symmorphus*, *Discoelius*, courtship, mating behaviour.

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