

TRICHOGRAMMA PRETIOSA, RILEY: COLOUR VARIATION IN THE ADULT, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VARIETY.

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In the original description of this insect,* Dr. Riley says that on account of its uniform pale yellow colour it is easily distinguished from *Trichogramma minutum*, Riley, which is black. Unfortunately, this does not hold.† Out of the hundreds of specimens of *pretiosa* reared during the entire season of 1904, at Paris, Texas, from the eggs of *Heliothis obsoleta*, Fabricius, there appeared from a lot of host eggs on Sept. 20th a number of dark individuals, which could easily have been mistaken for a distinct species. Previous to this, all of the individuals had been normally coloured.

The origin and subsequent history of this variety is as follows:

On the 10th, 11th and 12th of September a generation of 11 males and 22 females, all normally coloured, emerged in confinement from the host eggs on tomato leaves brought in from the field. Sixty-four eggs from moths in confinement were then supplied them on Sept. 11th, and freely parasitized. As a result, there emerged from these parasitized eggs a second generation of 53 males and 58 females, plus 11.

This second generation varied considerably, some of the individuals were very dark, others wholly black. The variation consisted in very light brown to a deep black, and gradations were present from one to the other. In the latter, the black first appeared in the abdomen, and as the variation became greater extended to the thorax and head, until the whole body became black. In this generation the variety was present in the proportion of 1 to 7. Both the typical specimens and the variety were freely copulating with each other.

The adults of this second generation were supplied with 48 fertile host eggs from moths kept in confinement, on Sept. 21st. Oviposition took place, and as a result a third generation began to appear on Sept. 30th. This generation consisted of 47 adults, of which 7 males and 7 females were the black variety.

*CANADIAN ENT., 1879, XI., pp. 161-162.

†Dyar, 1893, CANADIAN ENT., XXV., p. 256, mentioned that the males of *pretiosa* are often black on the dorsum of the abdomen.
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