Parasitoids of *Liriomyza sativa* in Farmer Fields in the Batticaloa District

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At present leafminers of the genus *Liriomyza* are a group of the serious insect pests of a number of vegetable crops and ornamental plants in the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka. The control of *Liriomyza* is difficult because they are polyphagous, have the ability to develop resistance to several groups of insecticides and their natural enemies are eliminated by over use and misuse of insecticides. Hence, a study of the parasitoids of leaf miners would help to develop suitable environmentally friendly management procedures.

Four hundred and fifty farmer fields were randomly selected from 17 Agricultural Instructor divisions in the Batticaloa district for this survey. Using destructive sampling, leaves of vegetables and wild plants showing *Liriomyza* leafminer damage were collected from selected farmer fields. After confirming that the dead host larvae were parasitized, collected leaves were kept separately in aerated plastic vials until the emergence of adult parasitoids. Adult parasitoids that emerged were identified with the help of reference collections and taxonomic catalogues.

Four hymenopteran parasitoids of *Liriomyza sativa* namely, *Pnigalio katanosis* Ishii (Family Eulophidae), *Opius* spp. (Family Braconidae), *Neochrysochalis okazakii* Kamijo (Family Eulophidae) and *Diglyphus iseae* Walker (Family Eulophidae) were detected. Among them, *Diglyphus iseae* Walker was the most abundant parasitoid of *Liriomyza* leafminers in the district. It had a parasitism level of 58.71% among the four species (*Neochrysochalis okazakii* Kamijo 23.74%, *Opius* spp. 12.26% and *Pnigalio katanosis* 5.29%).

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