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TWO SECONDARY PARASITOIDS OF THE PUSS MOTH, *MEGALOPYGE OPERCULARIS*

Earlier I reported (Khalaf 1975, Biology of the Puss Caterpillar and its Ichneumonid Parasite, Loyola Univ. Press, New Orleans, Louisiana, 43 p.) that the ichneumonid wasp, *Lymeon orbus* (Say), was a parasite of another ichneumonid, *Lanugo retentor* (Brullé), which, in turn, was a primary parasite of the megalopygid moth, *Megalopyge opercularis* (Smith). Recently, two other wasps were found to be secondary parasites of this moth.

On 30 March 1979, tiny eulophid wasps, *Dimmockia incongrua* (Ashm.), started to emerge in the laboratory from a cocoon of *Megalopyge*, which was obtained a few days earlier from New Orleans. The wasps emerged by eating one tiny hole about 1 mm in diameter in the shell of the cocoon. Thirty females and 2 males were recovered. Dissection of the cocoon revealed that the *Dimmockia* developed within the larval cell of *Lanugo retentor* (Brulle), a primary parasite of the moth. The *Lanugo* larva walled off the host *Megalopyge* prepupa, and then it was parasitized by *Dimmockia*, which caused the death of the *Lanugo* larva. Several brownish yellow pupal skins of the hyperparasite were left behind within the *Lanugo* cell.

A eupelmid wasp, *Arachnophaga aureicorpus* (Girault), emerged on 5 April 1979 from a *Megalopyge* cocoon that was collected in New Orleans in March 1979. The parasitized cocoon lacked the typical hard and tough texture of a finished cocoon; this lack is a symptom of tachinid fly parasitism, which inhibits the *Megalopyge* prepupa from reinforcing the cocoon, which causes the cocoon to harden. The emergence hole was 1.4 mm in diameter and was in a *Lanugo* cell containing a dead adult. Multiparasitism existed between *Lanugo* and tachinid flies before the eupelmid wasp attack. The *Lanugo* larva had walled off the *Megalopyge* prepupa and two tachinid puparia. No special cell was seen which might have belonged to the eupelmid wasp. This is a case of hyperparasitism following multiparasitism.

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