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Investigation of Fecundity and Sex Ratio in the Parasitoid *Bracon hebetor* Say (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) in Relation to Parasitoid Age

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Abstract: The effect of parasitoid age on fecundity and sex ratio in *Bracon hebetor* Say (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) was examined at 26 ± 2 °C and $60 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity. *Galleria mellonella* (L.) and *Ephestia kuehniella* (Zell.) were used as host species. It was found that the fecundity of the female parasitoid did not change significantly during the first 5 days of the female's lifespan but afterwards it decreased significantly. Under laboratory conditions, the offspring sex ratio was male biased on both host species. The fecundity of the female parasitoids reared on late stage larvae of *G. mellonella* was higher than that of those reared on *E. kuehniella*.

Key Words: Host, parasitoid, fecundity, sex ratio, *Galleria mellonella*, *Ephestia kuehniella*

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