

## **The parasite complex of *Saissetia nigra* in Malaysia**

### **ABSTRACT**

The percentage parasitism of *Saissetia nigra* (NIETNER) by chalcidoid parasites and the relative abundance of individual parasites were studied in the field using *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L. as the host plant. In order of abundance (on the basis of percentage recorded) the primary parasites were *Anysis saissetiae* ASH., *Aneristus ceroplastae* HOW., and *Microterys newcombi* (GIR)., while the hyperparasites were *Marietta exitiosa* COMP., *Cheiloneurus saissetiae* NOYES & CHUA and *Eupelmus catoxanthae* FERR. The efficiency of *A. saissetiae* (the larvae of which feed on the scale eggs) to control the scale population is doubtful because it is often parasitised by all 3 hyperparasites mentioned and each larva during development causes only 58% egg mortality of the parasitised host, leaving many scale eggs unconsumed. *A. ceroplastae* appears to be more useful parasite because it attacks the 2nd instar scales which cause significant damage to the host plant and it is free from attack by hyperparasites.