

A short-lived mantispid in an *Asemonea* nest: parasitoid *and* prey?

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The circumstantial evidence is clear: a well-fed adult female *Asemonea tenuipes* (O. Pickard-Cambridge 1869) in her nest with no brood, but with the remains of a mantispid, along with the cocoon and exuvium of a mantispid (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Evidence found under a leaf on the Indraprastha Organic Farm of the senior author (Abhijith) at Mysuru, Karnataka, India (16 JUL 2022). **1**, Recently-fed female *Asemonea tenuipes*. **2**, Mantispid cocoon and exuvium. **3**, Fragment of mantispid. **4-6**, Relative positions of spider, cocoon, and mantispid. **7**, Earlier (20 AUG 2019) photograph of an adult mantispid that emerged from the nest of a different *A. tenuipes*, at the same locality (Abhijith & Hill 2019).

The obvious suggestion here is that this mantispid fed on the brood of a female, made a cocoon, developed to maturity and molted to adulthood, but was then captured and eaten by the same female. But this might be a different female, *and* this might be a different mantispid. In any case this observation highlights the fact that the adult mantispid, particularly just after emergence, is vulnerable to the attack of its salticid victim. *Asemonea tenuipes* can go on to produce a series of multiple broods (Abhijith & Hill 2018, 2019; Joshi & Hill 2021), so in this case the earlier brood may have been "recovered" to provide nutrients for a second brood.

References

- Abhijith A. P. C. and D. E. Hill. 2018.** *Asemonea* cf. *tenuipes* in Karnataka (Araneae: Salticidae: Asemoneinae). Peckhamia 172.1: 1-8.
- Abhijith A. P. C. and D. E. Hill. 2019.** Impact of brood parasitoids and oophagy on survival of *Asemonea tenuipes* (Araneae: Salticidae: Asemoneinae) broods in Karnataka. Peckhamia 192.1: 1-15.
- Joshi, P. and D. E. Hill. 2021.** Multiple broods of the jumping spider *Asemonea tenuipes* (Araneae: Salticidae: Asemoneinae). Peckhamia 246.1: 1-4.