

SOLITARY WASP, POTTER WASP

Delta pyriforme pyriforme (Fabricius, 1775)

A close-up photograph of two Delta pyriforme pyriforme wasps on a purple flower. The wasps have yellow and black bodies, orange legs, and transparent wings. They are positioned on the flower, which has small, delicate purple blossoms. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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Delta pyriforme pyriforme (Fabricius, 1775) is also called potter wasp. *Delta pyriforme pyriforme* (Fabricius, 1775) is also called potter wasps or masons wasps. They belong to the subfamily Eumeninae of the family Vespidae. *Delta pyriforme pyriforme* is widespread. Its distribution is throughout India and has been recorded in most of the Indian states. These wasps play an important role in various ecological systems. They also contribute to pollination similar to the bees but are predominantly known for their importance in a natural system for controlling the population of other invertebrates by predation. Yet much other interaction with the environment is still unknown or unobserved. Solitary wasps under the subfamily Eumeninae of the family Vespidae are called potter wasp or mason wasps. Wasps belonging to this group are economically important as a predator of different insects.

Solitary wasps are an interesting subject for behaviour ecology studies for their nest construction behaviour. *Delta pyriforme pyriforme* is good architecture and builders in nature. Mud is used to construct nests, here the mud obtains the property of plasticity when mixed with a certain amount of water, due to which the wasp moulds the soft mud into the required shape and structure, on drying it hardens to give a durable shape. Over the past 200 years, the knowledge of Eumeninae biology is scarce and scattered throughout literature compared to other subfamilies like Polistinae and the Vespinae, these comprise the eusocial Vespids, (Carpenter, 1982; Picket and Carpenter 2010). However, the Eumeninae are valuable for studies, since their behaviour is solitary to almost primitive social, hence the evolution of eusociality (Herms et al 2013).

ANT

(Probably *Technomyrmex* sp.)

As part of my ant exploration near to my house, I observed this beautiful black ant on the top of the bright pink flower. Closer look reveals that shining white pollens from the flower is attached to the body of ant and ant is moving from one flower to other flower in the same plant and later to it was moving to nearby plants also.

Even though many ants are crawling from one flower to another flower for nector, only few ant species help in pollination, specifically on tiny flowers.

Pollen grains of *boerhavia diffusa* flowers are observed on the body of this tiny shining black ant (probably *Technomyrmex* sp.). Approximate flower size ~5mm.

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GECKO IN A BARK

Cnemaspis mysorensis communal oviposition site inside the crevices of Mango tree.

In the month of October, a team of Teachers went to Seven minister quarters Bengaluru for administrative purposes. We were waiting for the minister to arrive, sitting under the Mango tree. The juvenile geckos on the bark of the tree caught my attention and I lost into observing. A small crevice around two meters above the ground. I happened to see another adult gecko (*Cnemaspis mysorensis*) resting inside with 15-16 eggs around it. The crevices are the home to these geckos and a communal egg-laying site. These geckos help in keeping the number of pests low in their vicinity. We can observe the mutual relationship between the tree and the gecko and keep the environment healthy and stable around them.

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