

Invertebrate Knowledge Card

Aphid parasitoid wasp

Diaeretiella rapae

transient beneficial

Found
Australia-
wide



filiform antennae
with 12-16
segments

two sets of
wings with clear
venation on
forewing

constricted
waist

black head
and thorax

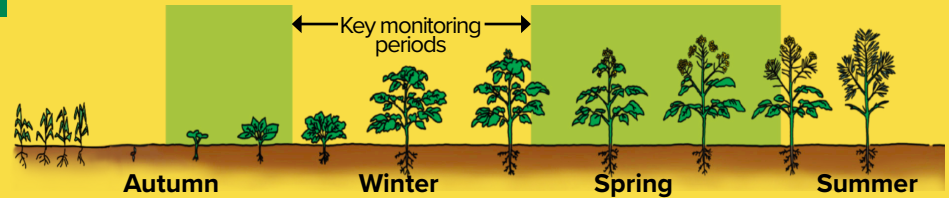
brown abdomen
(no metallic sheen)

2 mm in size

- More *D. rapae* have been found parasitising grain aphids than any other wasp species.
- Strongly associated with cole crops, although it will target aphid hosts in stands of other crops, such as cereals.
- Can parasitise several hundred aphids in one lifetime.
- This wasp can itself be parasitised by several other groups of wasps.

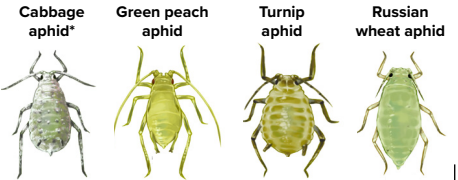
D. rapae is found throughout the year. Population size corresponds to the abundance of its aphid host. Evidence of *D. rapae* is commonly seen in Autumn & Spring when mild conditions favour aphid activity.

- Use sticky traps near aphid populations
- Look for bronze coloured aphid mummies

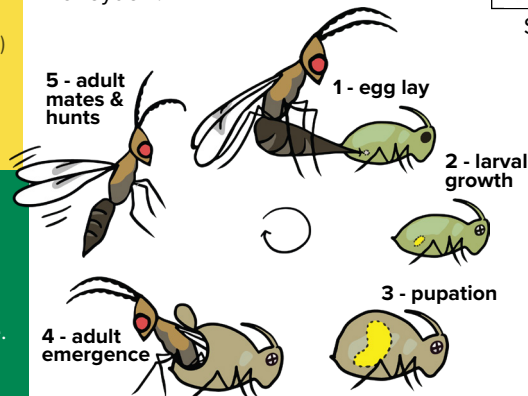


Finding the right nutrition

Larvae feed on aphid during development, but as an adult *D. rapae* will feed on floral and extrafloral nectar, in addition to honeydew.



Some common aphid hosts of *D. rapae*
*preferred host



From egg to adult

An adult *D. rapae* will insert its ovipositor into an aphid to lay an egg, which hatches within 2-3 days. The larva feeds on the aphid from the inside, pupating within the aphid carcass (a 'mummy') and emerging as an adult.

At 20°C the lifecycle, from egg to adult, takes 12.5-13.5 days. Females live for 10-15 days and males for 7-10 days.

