

Braconid wasp

Braconidae

Adults: Stout-bodied. Often black. Slender waist often visible only under magnification.

Eggs: In most cases, wasps insert several eggs in one host. Others lay only a single egg in each host.



Photo: Peter Bryant

Length: 3-8 mm



Braconid wasp – *continued*

Larvae: One or many larvae per host. Parasite eventually kills the host. Parasitized body of an aphid transforms into a “mummy.”



Aphelinid mummy (black) with Braconid mummy (brown) and healthy aphid (green).

Pupae: Occur inside the host body (one larva per host) or outside the host body (multiple larvae per host). Multiple cocoons may be visible on or near host.

Aphid mummy: Tan. Considerably swollen. Still resembles the aphid.

Hosts: Aphids and caterpillars, including European corn borer, armyworms, hornworms, diamondback moth, and corn rootworm, and leafminers.