

**Larval behaviour and development of  
*Penepodium luteipenne* (Fabricius, 1804)  
(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)**

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**Abstract:** The larval behaviour and development of *Penepodium luteipenne* (Fabricius, 1804) are described; the development is analysed in a table of life; notes on the nesting behaviour are also provided. The work is based on 63 specimens collected in the Biological Reserve of Poço das Antas (Rio de Janeiro State, southeastern Brazil), an area covered by Atlantic Tropical rain forest.

**Key words:** Hymenoptera, Sphecidae, Sceliphriini, *Penepodium*, larva, immature, behaviour, biology, wasp, table of life

### **Introduction**

Although the nesting behaviour of Apoid wasps is extensively studied (see BOHART & MENKE 1976), the behaviour and development of the larvae are still poorly known. *Penepodium* Menke is a genus of cockroach-hunting solitary wasps distributed as far north as central Mexico. The biology of this genus is known only from notes on a few species (WILLIAMS 1928, GENISE 1981, GARCIA & ADIS 1993, BUYS 2006). In the present paper the larval behaviour and development of *Penepodium luteipenne* (Fabricius, 1804) are described; developmental phases are analysed in a table of life; notes on the nesting behaviour are also provided.