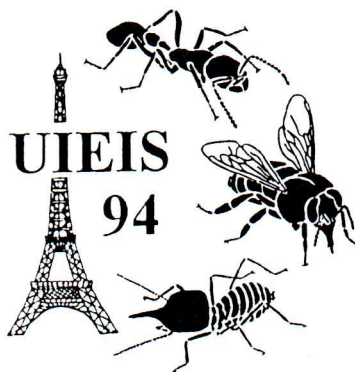


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DIFFERENTIATION OF BEHAVIOURAL CASTES IN THE PRIMITIVE
EUSOCIAL WASP *BELONOGASTER JUNCEA JUNCEA*
(HYMENOPTERA: VESPIDAE)

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Little is known about the biology of the *Belonogaster* spp. (Polistinae), this genus being peculiar to Africa, with, nevertheless, species recorded in Arabia and India.

With a view towards describing behavioural variability among individuals of *B. juncea*, we recorded the behaviour of 52 individuals belonging to four colonies at post-emergence. A multivariate analysis and, most notably, the analysis of principal components enabled us to discern four types of activity, including foraging, construction, feeding and reproduction. The reproductive caste is highly-individualized; the workers are differentiated into three sub-castes: foragers, builders and guards. The foragers are females who spend 82% of their time outside of the nest, supplying it with pieces of prey and liquid substances. The builders are foragers who tend to undertake construction activities. The guards are those females who spend most of their time on the nest.

The reproductive caste is limited to an individual with well-differentiated ovaries so that societies of *B. juncea* are monogynous.

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