

**EFFECT OF SOME HOST PLANTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT-FLY CERATITIS
CAPITATA (WIED.) AND THE FACTORS LIMITING INFECTION
(DIPTERA : TEPHRITIDAE)**

THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

Navel and balady oranges (Citrus aurantium), mandarine (Citrus nobilis), peach (Prunus persica), apricot (Prunus armeniaca), guava (Psidium juava), mango (Mangifera indica) and pear (Pyrus communis) are amongst the most common fruit crops in A.R.E.

These fruits are liable to infestation by several pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly, Ceratitidis capitata (Wied.) is one of the most notorious pests which attack both citrus and stone fruits, causing serious damages to them. The ravages of this fly are steadily increasing in recent years. The annual losses inflicted upon fruit crops include the quality and quantity of fruit production. These losses start when the adult females insert their eggs beneath the rind of the fruit. The hatching larvae complete their life cycle in the fruit pulps. Fruits attacked are rendered useless for consumption. In severe attacks the whole fruit may be ruined by the larvae. Finally this might lead to fruit dropping.

It is well known that liability to infestation by the Mediterranean fruit-fly varies for different host