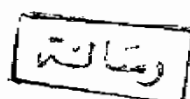


***STUDIES ON SOME NATURAL ENEMIES
ATTACKING SCALE INSECTS AND MEALY
BUGS IN QUALUBIA PROVINCE***



BY

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B. Sc. (Agriculture, Entomology), 1986
Fac. of Agric. Ain Shams Univ.

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
Agriculture (Entomology)

Plant Protection Department
Faculty of Agriculture
Ain Shams University

1994



Approval Sheet

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ABSTRACT

The black scale insect, *Chrysomphalus ficus* Ashmead was considered as key pest on citrus orchards since the end of

nineteen century uptill the end of sixth decade of twentieth century. Afterwards, the population of this pest began to decrease gradually in the successive years. Nowadays, it is not easy to find an orchard infested with this scale insect. The factors responsible about this phenomenon are unrecognizable uptill these studies.

The ecological data about *C. ficus* and its natural enemies were obtained by half-monthly counts on navel orange leaves from a citrus orchard at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate from 1st February, 1989 to mid-January 1990. The seasonal fluctuation in the total population as well as the seasonal variations of the different developmental stages showed that this species had four annual periods of seasonal activities and four annual generations, viz. spring generation from 1st February to mid-May; summer generation from 1st June to 1st August; autumn generation from mid-August to mid-October; winter generation from 1st November to mid-January.

The natural enemies of *C. ficus* were recorded and carefully identified throughout the ecological studies. One species of ectoparasitoid, *Aphytis holoxanthus* DeBach which recorded for the first time in Egypt; three species of endoparasitoids, *Aspidiotiphagus citrinus* Craw.,; *A. lounsburyi* Berl. & Paoli and *Habrolepis pascuorum* Mercet and an entomogenous fungus, *Cladosporium cladosporioides* (Fresen.) were recorded. The seasonal activities for these natural enemies were represented by actual numbers as well as percentages of parasitism throughout the half-monthly counts. Statistical analysis of the data clarify that the combined effects of these bioagents (ecto- endo- parasitoids and entomogenous fungus) and main climatic factors (mean temperature and mean % R.H.) were responsible as a group on the seasonal activities of *C. ficus* specially during spring and winter generations; while the same factors had lesser effects during summer and autumn generations.

Therefore, the phenomenon of scarcity of the black scale insect probably due to the effects of the previously mentioned

these natural enemies while had the opportunity to parasitized on this insect pest especially *A. holoxanthus*.

Morphological and biological studies were carried out on the ectoparasitoid, *Aphytis holoxanthus* on *C. ficus* under laboratory conditions. The different developmental stages of the parasitoid were described and their measurements were estimated. The duration of the different stages were estimated. The type of diets provided to adults had highly significant effects on both sexes. The honey, seemed to be the most appropriate food for the adults of parasitoid. It gave the prolonged oviposition periods and the longevity of both female and male. Moreover, it caused an increase in the rate of egg laying/female.

Four species of entomogenous fungi were isolated and identified from *C. ficus*, these species are: *Cladosporium cladosporioides*, *Alternaria* sp., *Ulocladium* sp. and *Diplodia* sp.. The pathogenicity tests of the four species showed that *C. cladosporioides* was the only dominant and effective species. The percentage of parasitism reached 15.5 after four weeks of application.

Key words: Biological control - Black scale insect - Bioagent - Natural enemies - Ectoparasitoid - Endoparasitoid - Entomogenous fungi - Ecology - Biology - Isolation - Pathogenicity test - *Chrysomphalus ficus* - *Aphytis holoxanthus* - *Aspidiotiphagus citrinus* - *A. lounsburyi* - *Habrolepis pascuorum* - *Cladosporium cladosporioides*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author express his profound gratitude and deep appreciation to Professor Dr. *A. H. Amin*, Professor of Economic Entomology, Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University for his supervision, keen interest in the subject guidance, helpful criticism, encouragement and suggesting the problem.

Special thanks are also due to Professor Dr. *A. M. A. Hekal*, Professor of Economic Entomology at the same Department, for his supervision, valuable guidance, kind encouragement, scientific advice and assistance throughout the work.

Also thanks are due to Dr. *M. A. Rezk*, Assistant Professor of Economic Entomology at the same Department, for her continuous help, guidance and useful assistance.

Sincere thanks are extended to Dr. *M. A. Ahmed*, Assistant Professor, Department of plant pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University for his kind help in the identification of the fungi.

My supreme gratitude and appreciation to *My Family*, to whom I indebted, for their valuable continuous supports.

CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	i
LIST OF FIGURES	v
INTRODUCTION	1
NOMENCLATURE OF THE BLACK SCALE INSECT AND IDENTIFICATION OF ITS ECTOPARASITOID.....	3
A. The black scale insect.....	3
B. The ectoparasitoid.....	4
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
MATERIAL, METHOD AND TECHNIQUES.....	31
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	43
I- ECOLOGICAL STUDIES	43
A. Seasonal fluctuation in the population density of the black scale insect, <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> on navel orange trees	43
B. Seasonal variations of different stages of alive population of <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> on navel trees	47
C. Number and Duration of Generations of <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> on navel orange trees	49
D. Seasonal activities of the natural enemies of the black scale, <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> on navel orange trees.....	52
E. Seasonal activity of the ectoparasitoid, <i>Aphytis holoxanthus</i> DeBach on the black scale, . <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> Ashmead.....	58
F. Seasonal activities of three endoparasitoids species on the black scale, <i>Chrysomphalus</i> <i>ficus</i>	64
G. Seasonal activity of the entomogenous fungus, <i>Cladosporium cladosorioides</i> on the black scale, <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i>	70

H. Combined effects of three bioagents and two main climatic factors on the population density of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange trees.....	74
a) Effects of the five selected factors on the total alive population of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange.....	76
b) Effects of four selected factors on the number of alive nymphs of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange.....	79
c) Effects of the five selected factors on the number of alive females of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange.....	82
d) Effects of the four selected factors on the number of alive males of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange	85
II- MORPHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY OF THE APHELINID PARASITOID, <i>Aphytis holoxanthus</i>	92
A. THE EGG STAGE	92
B. THE LARVAL STAGE	96
1. First instar	96
2. Second instar	99
3. Third instar	99
C. THE PUPAL STAGE	101
1. Prepupa	101
2. Pupa	104
D. THE ADULT STAGE	112
1. Emergence of the adult	112
2. Mating behaviour	113
3. Number of parasitoids on one single host ...	116
4. Sex ratio and parthenogenesis	117
E. DURATION OF THE ADULT STAGE	119
1. Preoviposition period	119
2. Oviposition period	121

3. Post oviposition period	122
4. Fecundity	122
5. Adults longevity	123
6. Number of hosts parasitized by parasitoid female	124
III- ENTOMOGENOUS FUNGUS AND PATHOGENICITY TEST	126
A. IDENTIFICATION	126
B. PATHOGENICITY TEST	126
SUMMARY	130
REFERENCES	141
ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: Means of the half monthly counts of alive stages of <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> per square inch of navel orange leaf (estimated from 150 leaves) from citrus orchard at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate with corresponding means temperature and R.H.% during 1989-1990	45
Table 2: Half-monthly counts of different developmental stages of <i>C. ficus</i> with their numbers and percentages of natural death as well as death caused by different bioagents, throughout the four annual generations, the means on one square inch of orange leaf at El-Kanater El-Khiria during 1989-1990	54
Table 3: The half-monthly counts of the ectoparasitoid, <i>Aphytis holoxanthus</i> on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange trees at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate with their mean percentages of parasitism during the four annual generations of the host during 1989-1990	59
Table 4: The half-monthly counts of three different species of endoparasitoids on different stages of <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> on navel orange trees at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate, with their mean percentages of parasitism during the four annual generations of the host during 1989-1990	65
Table 5: The half-monthly counts of the entomogenous fungus, <i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange trees at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate, with their mean percentages of parasitism during the four annual generations of the host during 1989-1990	71

Table 6: Half-monthly counts of total number of alive population of <i>C. ficus</i> on one square inch of navel orange leaf at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate throughout four annual generations during 1989-1990 with the corresponding five independent factors (3 biotic + 2 physical factors)	77
Table 7: Results of statistical analysis of simple correlation and partial regression to investigate the combined effects of three bioagents and two main climatic factors on the corresponding half-monthly counts of total alive population of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange leaves throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia - Governorate	78
Table 8: Half-monthly counts of number of alive nymphs of <i>C. ficus</i> on one square inch of navel orange leaf at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 with corresponding four independent factors (2 biotic + 2 physical factors)	80
Table 9: Results of statistical analysis of simple correlation and partial regression to investigate the combined effects of two bioagents and main climatic factors on the corresponding counts of the alive nymphs of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange leaves throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate	81
Table 10: Half-monthly counts of alive females of <i>C. ficus</i> on one square inch of navel orange leaf at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 with the corresponding five independent factors (3 biotic + 2 physical factors)	83
Table 11: Results of statistical analysis of simple correlation and partial regression to investigate	

the combined effects of three bioagents and two main climatic factors on the corresponding half-monthly counts of alive females of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange leaves throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate.....	84
Table 12: Half-monthly counts of number of alive males of <i>C. ficus</i> on one square inch of navel orange leaf at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 with the corresponding four independent factors (2 biotic + 2 physical factors)	87
Table 13: Results of statistical analysis of simple correlation and partial regression to investigate the combined effects of two bioagents and two main climatic factors on the corresponding counts of the alive males of <i>C. ficus</i> on navel orange leaves throughout four annual generations during 1989-90 at El-Kanater El-Khiria, Qualubia Governorate	88
Table 14: The mean durations of the immature stages of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> reared on <i>C. ficus</i> (each mean calculated from 20 replicates).....	95
Table 15: The mean numbers of developing parasitoids of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> on a single host of <i>C. ficus</i> (each mean calculated from 20 replicates).....	118
Table 16: Sex ratio and parthenogenesis in progeny of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> reared on <i>C. ficus</i> . under field and laboratory conditions.....	118
Table 17: The effects of different types of foods on the oviposition periods, fecundity, longevity of both sexes and number of hosts parasitized by <i>Aphytis holoxanthus</i> reared on <i>Chrysomphalus ficus</i> under laboratory conditions	120

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1: Rearing box of <i>Aphytis holoxanthus</i>	34
Figure 2: Sour orange seedling with plastic cages for biological studies of <i>A. holoxanthus</i>	36
Figure 3: The emergence box of the parasitoids.....	39
Figure 4: Box of pathogenicity test of pathogenic fungus.	41
Figure 5: Seasonal fluctuation in population density of <i>C. ficus</i> represented by total numbers of alive population on navel orange trees with their corresponding mean temperature and relative humidity at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90.....	46
Figure 6: Seasonal variation in <i>C. ficus</i> of different alive stages on navel orange trees at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90.....	
Figure 7: Half-monthly percentage of <i>C. ficus</i> nymph on navel orange trees at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90 (A) nymphs, (B) females and (C) males.....	48
Figure 8: Percentages of natural and bioagents death on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> throughout four annual generations at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90. (A) 1 st generation (B) 2 nd generation (C) 3 rd generation (D) 4 th generation.....	55
Figure 9: Percentage of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90.....	60

Figure 10: Percentages of endoparasitoids on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90.....	66
Figure 11: Percentages of entomogenous fungus <i>Cladosporium cladosporioids</i> on different stages of <i>C. ficus</i> at El-kanater El-Khiria during 1989-90.....	72
Figure 12: Newly deposited egg of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 400) .	93
Figure 13: Fully formed embryo of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 400) .	93
Figure 14: Mandibles of the three larval instars of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (A) 1 st instar; (B) 2 nd instar; (C) 3 rd instar (X 400).....	97
Figure 15: Larvae of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (A) Newly hatched; (B) older hatched (X 400).....	98
Figure 16: The first instar larva of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	98
Figure 17: The second instar larva of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	100
Figure 18: The third instar larva of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	100
Figure 19: Cephalic skeleton of 3rd instar larva of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	102
Figure 20: The prepupa of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	103
Figure 21: The meconia of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 400).....	103
Figure 22: Anterior portion of prepupa of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 200).....	104
Figure 23: Late prepupa of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 100).....	104
Figure 24: The newly formed pupa of <i>A. holoxanthus</i> (X 25)	107