XXIII Congresso Brasileiro de ENTOMOLOGIA
NATAL / RN - 26 A 30 DE SETEMBRO DE 2010

BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF *ERIOPIS CONNEXA* (GERMAR) (COLEOPTERA: COCCINELLIDAE) WITH DIFFERENT INSECT PEST F THE MAIZE AND SORGHUM AGROECOSYSTEMS

Autores:

Rafael Braga da Silva (Rua Antônio Maciel São Dimas Sete Lagoas/MG 35700230 rafaelentomologia@yahoo.com.br Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar)) , Ivan Cruz (Embrapa Milho e Sorgo (Embrapa/CNPMS)) , Maria de Lourdes Corrêa Figueiredo (Embrapa Milho e Sorgo (Embrapa/CNPMS)) , Wagner de Souza Tavares (Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV)) , Ana Carolina Redoan (Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA)) , José Cola Zanuncio (Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV))

Eriopis connexa (Germar) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) may be found in several South American countries and their mass scale rearing procedure is important for biological control programs. The objective of this work was to evaluate some biological aspects of the immature phases of *E. connexa* using as food source, eggs (frozen by one day) of *Anagasta kuehniella* (Zeller) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), eggs (fresh) of *Diatraea saccharalis* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), eggs (frozen) and newly hatched caterpillars of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), nymphs of *Rhopalosiphum maidis* (Fitch) or of *Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) reared inside acclimatized room under 25±1ºC, 70±10% RH and 12 hours of photophase. The experimental design was entirely randomized block, with four replications, each one composed by 10 larvae of *E. connexa*, except for the treatment with nymphs of *R. maidis*, with five larvae for replication. The preys were offered ad libitum. Period of time for larva, pupa and larva-adult varied according to food source. Pre-pupal period was similar among treatments. Viability of the larval, pupal, pre-pupal and larva to adult period of *E. connexa* was the equal among or greater than 87.5% in all the treatments, except for that with newly hatched larvae of *S. frugiperda* as food source. *Eriopis connexa* showed a good capacity to adapt to the different food source, which is an evidence of the polyphagous predation habit of the Coccinellidae family. In the field, that predator is not restricted to only one food source and it can modulate its diet with alternative pray, which is also an evidence of the potential of the species as a natural enemy to be used against corn and sorghum insect pests.