



DETECTION OF *WOLBACHIA ENDOSYMBIONT* IN POPULATIONS OF *TRICHOGRAMMA PRETIOSUM* RILEY, 1879 (HYMENOPTERA: TRICHOGRAMMATIDAE).

Nilene Rodrigues dos Santos¹, Raul Porfírio de Alameida², Itácio Q. M. Padilha¹, Demetrius Antônio M. de Araújo¹, Antônio J. Creão Duarte¹

¹ UFPB- Universidade Federal da Paraíba (nileners@yahoo.com.br), ² Embrapa Algodão

Species of the genus *Wolbachia* are facultative symbionts commonly found in arthropods and are related to the reproductive system manipulation and may cause reproductive disturbances. Detecting the presence of this symbiont in new species of *Trichogramma* may possibly contribute to the formation of new groups of *Wolbachia* associated to *Trichogramma*, in addition to enabling the study of parasitoid-symbiont relations and allow the selection of populations for use in applied biological control programs. This work aimed to detect in populations of *Trichogramma pretiosum* the bacteria of the genus *Wolbachia* in different geographic regions of Brazil. Five specimens of *Trichogramma pretiosum* from each population were homogenized in 100µl chelex 5% and 4 µl of proteinase K. The PCR amplifications were run with specific *wsp* primers, with a final reaction volume of 25 µl. The size of the PCR products was determined using a 100 bp molecular weight marker, having used a negative control (without *Wolbachia* DNA) and a positive control (with *Wolbachia* DNA). The presence of the endobacteria, based on amplification of the fragment with approximately 600 bp, was detected. From the analyzed populations, the presence of the endobacteria was found in the population from the state of Espírito Santo. (Fonte Financiadora: Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior CAPES).