

Aphid Parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Aphidiinae) on Citrus: Seasonal Abundance, Association with the Species of Host Plant, and Sampling Indices

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Samples were collected from southern Greece during 1996–2000 in order to investigate the presence of parasitoids on *Aphis gossypii* Glover infesting several citrus species. The species of aphidiines found to have a significantly different preference for *A. gossypii* were *Aphidius colemani* Viereck, *Aphidius matricariae* Haliday, *Diaeretiella rapae* (M'Intosh), *Ephedrus persicae* Froggat, *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* (Cresson), *Binodoxys acalephae* (Marshall) and *Binodoxys angelicae* (Haliday). In another sampling experiment, the relative abundance of aphidiine parasitoids on aphids infesting orange and tangerine trees was studied in southern Greece (Nea Kios) in 1996 and 1997. *A. gossypii* constituted the largest part of the aphid population and was the only species parasitized. *B. angelicae* and *A. colemani* were the most abundant parasitoid species. The parasitization rate differed among the parasitoid species. *B. angelicae* had the highest colonization rate in centrally located and large host (*A. gossypii*) groups, whereas *A. colemani* was found in more isolated and relatively small host groups. The percentage of parasitism by *B. angelicae* was high mainly in large host groups, when *B. angelicae* was the only parasitoid present. However, in cases of coexistence of *B. angelicae* with *A. colemani* with hyperparasitoids, in the same sampling unit, the percentage of parasitism was relatively low.

KEY WORDS: *Aphis gossypii*; Aphidiinae; hyperparasitoids; density dependence; isolation; citrus species.

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