

Release and Establishment of *Cotesia flavipes* for Biological Control of Maize Stemborers in Zimbabwe

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Five populations of the crambid stemborer *Chilo partellus* (Swinhoe) and one of the noctuid borer *Busseola fusca* (Fuller) from Zimbabwe were evaluated for their suitability for immature development of the exotic braconid larval parasitoid *Cotesia flavipes* Cameron. Successful parasitoid development occurred only on *C. partellus* but parasitism as well as egg-to-adult development time did not vary among the five populations. Smallest parasitoid broods, and sex ratios as the proportion of female offspring, however, were produced with *C. partellus* from the Muzarabani area of Zimbabwe. *Co. flavipes* became successfully established in five out of eight locations, where it had been released in July 1999 and the 2004/05 summer season. Its spread and impact, however, still need to be assessed.

KEY WORDS: *Busseola fusca*; cereal stemborer; *Chilo partellus*.

Received July 2, 2007; accepted Nov. 21, 2007; <http://www.phytoparasitica.org> posting March 10, 2008.

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