

Abstract

Two aphelinid parasitoids, *Eretmocerus mundus* Mercet and *Prospaltella* sp., were recovered from puparia of *Bemisia tabaci* Genn., on *Lantana camara*. *E. mundus* accounted for 71.1% of the total number of parasitoids mounted, while *Prospaltella* sp. accounted for 28.9%. The sex-ratio for *E. mundus* ranged from 1.1–2.8: 1 (♂:♀). For *Prospaltella* sp., it was 1: 2–5 (♂:♀). Parasitism on puparia of *B. tabaci* occurred throughout the year. The percentage of parasitism was in the range of 26.0 to 50.5. The highest rate was obtained in January, while the lowest was in November. Parasitization percentage was well synchronized with the availability of the whitefly puparia. Adult population trends of both whitefly and its parasitoids were identical. The highest numbers were obtained during June when the daily average temperature of 29 °C was prevailed, while the lowest numbers were during January where daily average temperature of 14.5 °C was recorded. Parasitism percentage was zero on all examined vegetable crops during most of the year due to intensive use of pesticides.

Results suggest that further bioecological and chemical control studies should be carried out to determine the effect of each of the two parasitoids upon the tobacco whitefly population.