SCIENTIFIC NOTE

RECENT RECORD FOR PARASITOID SPECIES OF CERTAIN COTTON PESTS IN UGANDA

A. H. El-Heneidy and B. M. Sekamatte*
Department of Biological Control, Plant Protection Research Institute, Giza, Egypt.
* Serere Agricultural and Animal Production Research Institute, Soroti, Uganda.
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A large complex of insect and spider mite species is found in cotton agro-ecosystems wherever the crop is grown. Of this large number, comparatively few are pests of economical significance. Many are beneficial species, either arthropod parasitoids or predators. EL-Heneidy et al. (1996) reported that available literature showed that no studies have been done in Uganda on the natural enemies of cotton pests, since the surveys of Coaker (1959), Greathead (1966) and Nyirag (1970).

Intensive samples were collected from the most economic insect pests of cotton mainly; the aphid, Aphis gossypii Glov., the bollworms, American (ABW), Helicoverpa armigera Hb., the spiny (SBW), Earias insulana Boisd. and E. piblaga Wlk., and the pink bollworm (PBW), Pectinophora gossypiella Saund. Immature stages were reared under laboratory conditions for parasitoid emergence. Recovered parasitoid species were identified by the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) in London, Institute of Entomology, Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic, and Universita’ Degli Studi Di Napoli in Italy.

The parasitoid species listed below were recorded from the considered following hosts:
A. gossypii:
1- Braconidae: Aphidius colemani* Vier.,
2- Encyrtidae: Syrphophagous ( = Aphidencyrtus africanus* (Gahan),
3- Pteromalidae: Pachyneuron sp.*, and
4- Ceraphridae: unidentified sp.

ABW:
1- Braconidae: Agathidinae*, Apanteles sp., Cardiochiles variegatus Szepligeti (Cardiochilidae),
Dolichogenidea aethiopica* Wilkinson (Miegasternidae), and Meteorus lophyganth Brues (Euphorinae),
2- Eulophidae: Pediothion near francolus* (Crawford)
3- Ichneumonidae: Charops ater Szepligeti, Diplazon laetatorius* F., and Netelia sp.* (Tryphonidae),
4- Tachinidae: Palaeotoma lara* Curran.

SBW:
1- Braconidae: Agathis bruesi Shenefelt, Aleiodes spp (Rogadinae), Apanteles spp., Dolichogenidea aethiopica* Wilkinson, Euphrinae, and Protomicroplitis fascipennis* Gahan (Microgasterinae),
2- Fitididae: Anachoroides* sp.,
3- Ichneumonidae: Diplazon laetatorius* F., and Netelia* sp. (Tryphonidae),
4- Tachinidae: Peribaca* sp., and Linnaomyia agilis* Curran.

PBW:
1- Braconidae: Bracon sp. (Braconinae), and Bracon kirkpatricki Wilkinson,
2- Eulohidae: Eulohus ? johnstoni Ferriere, and
3- Eupelmidae: Eupelmus* sp.

Besides, some parasitoid species were also recorded on the larvae and/or pupae of the common predators found associated with cotton pests. Oomyia near somproni* (Erdos) (Chalcididae) ex. pupae of the lacewing, Chrysoperla carnea Steph., Heloborius epheltei* (Ratzburg) (Encyrtidae) ex. larvae of the coccinellid, Chetomenes lunata, H.? flammea* (Dalman) ex. larvae of the coccinellid, Scymnus sp., and Diplazon laetatorius* F. (Ichneumonidae) ex. pupae of the hover fly, Syrphus sp.

* Species were recorded for the first time in East African region during this survey.
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