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BIOMETRICS AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EGG MASS OF THE PROCESSIONARY, *THAUMETAUPOEA PITYOCAMPA* SCHIFF ON THE CEDAR OF THE ATLAS, *CEDRUS ATLANTICA* MANETTI

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ABSTRACT

The study led on 113 egg mass of *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* coming from various cedar plantations of the North of Algeria showed lengths of egg mass of the population of the processionary on the cedar of Chélia more consequent (29+ 6mm) that those of the egg mass collected in the cedar plantation of Chréa (23+6mm). The frequential analysis lengths of the egg mass highlighted 5 classes for the batches collected in the three prospected sites. The data collected highlight a difference very highly significant between the batches tested (p=0, 0001). The egg mass coming from the prospected sites reveal a full number of 22237oeufs with an average of 175+49 eggs per laying. The fruitfulness of the population evolving/moving on the cedar plantation of Chréa is more consequent with that in the site of Theniat El Had. A diversity of 3 species of chalcidiens parasitoïdes pertaining to the order of Hyménoptères was noted starting from the analyzed biological material. The species *Baryscapus (Tetrastichus) servadeii*, *Ooencyrtus pityocampa* and *Trichogramma embryophagum* are active on the various examined and analyzed samples. The rate of calculated parasitism is very different between the localities, does not exceed 16,66% in the populations sampled with a predominance of *Baryscapus servadeii*. The combinations of the presence of the three parasitoïdes are noted on the biological material examined with a prevalence of the species *Baryscapus servadeii.* In the sites of Chréa and Theniat El Had, only the alternative *O. pityocampae* with *T.embryophagum* was not noted. The ends of the layings, badly protected by the scales are sought by the parasitoïdes. The parasitoïdes, *O.pityocampa* and *T.embryophagum* seem to be recognized not to return in specific competition. These antagonists seem to recognize parasitized eggs. On the basis of result obtained, an alternative of fight containing the species *Ooencyrtus pityocampa* proves to be interesting and very debatable.

KEYWORDS: Biometrics, Fruitfulness, Parasitoïdes, Processionary, Cedar of the Atlas