

ACTIVITY OF PEACH TWIG BORER *Anarsia lineatella* Zeller AND ITS ASSOCIATED BIO AGENTS ON PEACH TREES

[52]

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ABSTRACT

The seasonal activity of the peach twig borer, *Anarsia lineatella* Zeller was investigated during 2004 and 2005 seasons. The data revealed that the infested twigs empty from larvae (15%) were higher than that with larvae (1.25%) in February. The situation was reverse in April which recorded 8% and 14.75% for both, respectively. In fruits, infestation began to appear in the third week of March which recorded 2% whereas the maximum rate was recorded in May (16.75%). Three species of hymenopterous parasitoids were found; *Apanteles ruficrus* Haliday (Fam. Braconidae), *Diplazon laetatorus* Fab. (Fam. Ichneumonidae) and *Microgaster tiro* Reinhard (Fam. Braconidae). These parasitoids reached its maximum during April (13.5%) that seems to be more active. Their numbers were positively correlated with the rate of infestation ($r = + 0.799$). In spite of presence of four predatory species (*Coccinella undecimpunctata* L., *Rodalia cardinalis* Mulsant, and *Scymnus syriacus* Marseul (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and *Syrphus sp.* (Diptera: Syrphidae)), it seems to be less active. Their numbers recorded very slight positive correlation with the rate of infestation ($r = +0.423$)

Keywords: Peach, *Anarsia lineatella*, Parasitoid, Predators, Biological control

INTRODUCTION

Peach fruits are considered one of the most popular fruits in Egypt. Peach orchards were attacked by several pests, but the most important pest was the peach twig borer, *Anarsia lineatella* Zeller (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) which cause damage to the newly formed twigs and fruits. The larvae bore into newly formed twigs and fruits causing partial or complete destruction. Many authors studied different subjects belong to this pest,

most of them used pheromone traps for monitoring the flight activity (Molnar, 1991; Kehat *et al* 1994; Zalom *et al* 1992 and Kocourek *et al* 1996), mating disruption (confusion) (Molinari and Cravedi, 1991 and Pari *et al* 1990), determination the percentages of infestation (Hrady *et al* 1994; Weakley *et al* 1990 and Hathaway *et al* 1985) and the effectiveness of the pheromone traps (Yonugman and Barnes, 1985 and Barnett and Hendricks, 1992).

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According to biology, ecology and behaviour of the pest (**Ivanova et al 1995**). The biological control, especially parasites plays an important role for controlling such pest (**Dimova, 1987 and Cravedi et al 1995**).

The present study aimed to throw more light on the infestation of peach twig borer *A. lineatella* on peach trees and the role of associated predators and parasites for controlling such pest.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in a peach orchard of two feddans, located at Kotor District, Gharbia Governorate. Studies were conducted during two successive seasons, 2004 and 2005. Twenty trees (about 10 years old) were randomly chosen for sampling and five random twigs / tree (represented the four main directions and the central core) was collected periodically, started from the second week of February and ended in the last week of June in both seasons. One hundred fruits were also collected whenever it were available. Samples of either twigs or fruits were kept in paper bags and transferred to the laboratory for carefully examination to estimate the rate of infestation in twigs (either with or without larvae) and in fruits.

The infested twigs and fruits by larvae were confined in glass jars until emergence of adult parasitoids to estimate the rate of parasitism and identifying the emerged parasitoid species. The predators were directly counted and identified on twigs in the field.

RESULTS

The rate of infestation by peach twig borer *Anarsia lineatella* Zell which found

in peach orchard during the two successive seasons of 2004, 2005 were listed in **Table (1) and Fig. (1)**. The percentages of infestation in twigs were much higher for about 12 times in February in twigs empty from larvae than that with larvae. These averages are 15 and 1.25 % for both, respectively. In May, the empty infested twigs decreased until reached its minimum (5.5%), then increased again till reached 7.16% in June. On the other hand the infested twigs with larvae began to increase to reach its maximum (14.75%) in April then decreased towards the end of season, which recorded 1.3% in June. The average percentage of infested twigs (with or without larvae) showed somewhat higher rate of infestation in February (6.25 %) and reached its maximum peak in April (22.75 %) then decreased gradually till 8.5% in June.

The infested fruits began to appear in the third week of March (2%), and increased, gradually, till recorded the maximum rate (16.75%) in May then decreased till reached 5.5% in June.

The previous results showed that the twigs infestation with larvae which resume their activity appearance of the overwintered larvae where start boring in the shoots.

The larvae of peach twig borer in winter were hibernated in tunnels in the distal part of twigs (**Saafan et al 1994 and Ivanova et al 1995**), so the empty infested twigs in early season may be due to the migration of larvae either before or after hibernation searching for new vegetative parts and/or due to the effect of biological agents or other factors. When weather conditions became favourable, the overwintered larvae appear and resume their activity which starts boring

in the shoots and twigs. Where the numbers

Table 2. Occurrence of natural enemies (% of parasitism and No. of predators) on peach twig borer, *Anarsia lineatella* during two successive seasons of 2004 and 2005

Inspection dates	% of parasitism			No. of predators		
	2004	2005	Average	2004	2005	Average
Feb. 11 (9)	0	0	0	4	5	4.5
25 (23)	3	1	2	6	8	7
mean	1.5	0.5	1	5	6.5	5.75
March 10 (9)	9	6	7.5	10	9	9.5
24 (23)	16	10	13	11	13	12
mean	12.5	8	10.25	11	11	10.75
April 7 (6)	17	13	15	13	16	14.5
21 (20)	13	11	12	21	29	25
mean	15	12	13.5	17	22.5	19.75
May 5 (4)	10	9	9.5	26	31	28.5
19 (18)	9	7	8	24	23	23.5
mean	9.5	8	8.25	25	27	26
Jun 2 (1)	8	9	8.5	20	22	21
16 (15)	4	6	5	17	22	19
30 (29)	1	3	2	21	19	20
mean	6.5	9	5.16	19.3	21	20
General mean	8.2	6.8	7.5	15.7	17.9	16.8
± s.e.	±1.7	±1.2	±1.5	±2.2	±2.6	±2.4

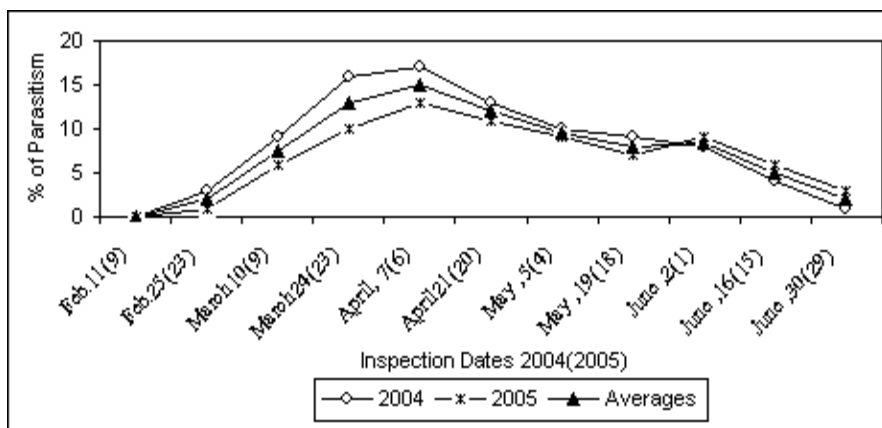


Fig. 2. Occurrence of % of parasitism on peach twig borer *Anarsia lineatella* during two successive seasons of 2004 and 2005

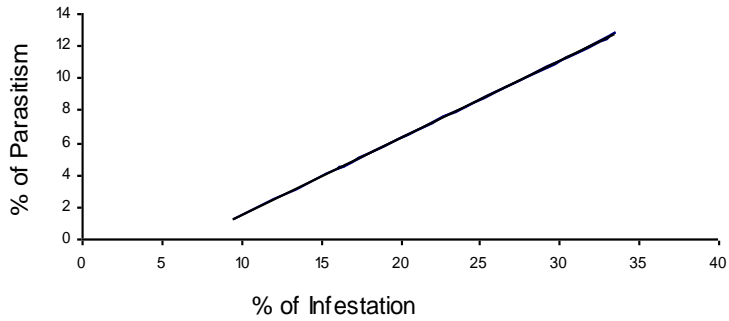


Fig. 3. Regression line between % of infestation by peach twig borer and % of associated parasites

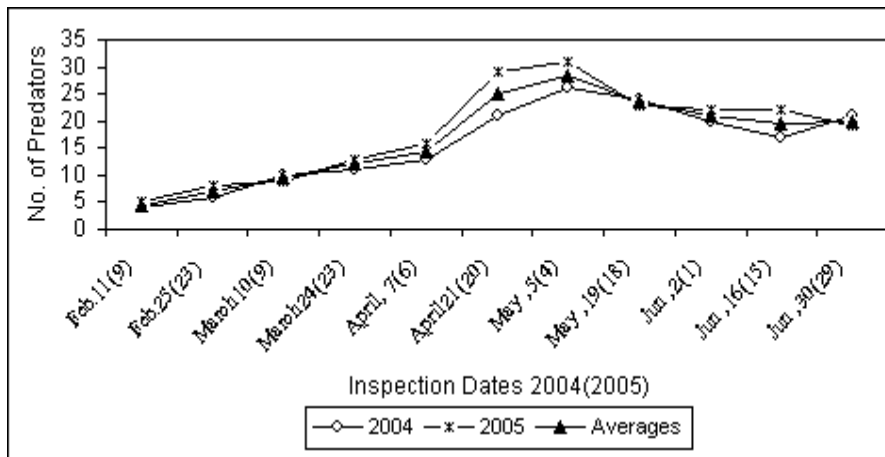


Fig. 4. Occurrence of number of predators on peach twig borer *Anarsia lineatella* during two successive seasons of 2004 and 2005.

of twigs infested with larvae increased, mainly in April. These findings are in agreement with those of **Weakley et al 1990; Saafan, et al 1994 and Hrdy, et al 1994.**

The larvae prefer pre-mature fruits than twigs. So the infestation by larvae increased in fruits than twigs in May, **Table (1).** These results coincide with those of **Saafan, 1992 and Barnett and Hendricks, 1992.**

Bio Agents

A. Parasites

Now a day, chemical pesticides are not favourable to use for controlling the pests especially in fruit trees. So, parasites may be playing an important role for control, or at least decrease, number of such pest, especially during the active periods of larvae. The present investigation revealed that larvae of peach twig borer *Anarsia lineatella* were found to be parasitized by the following three species of hymenopterous parasitoids:

- i. *Apanteles ruficrus* Haliday (Fam. Braconidae)
- ii. *Diplazon laetatorus* Fab. (Fam. Ichneumonidae)
- iii. *Microgaster tiro* Reinhard (Fam. Braconidae)

The rate of parasitism coincides with that of infestation by pests. Percentages of parasitism are increased according to increasing the rate of infestation which 10.25 and 13.5% in March and April, respectively and then decreased, gradually, till reach 8.25 and 5.16% in May and June respectively, **Table (2) and Fig. (2).** According to the time coordination, the correlation coefficient showed a positive significance between the number of parasites and the rate of infestation ($r = +$

0.799** and $b = + 0.476$), **Fig. (3).** These results agree with those of (**Dimova, 1987 and Cravedi et al 1995**) who emphasized to use the bioagents, especially parasites, in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

B. Predators

Four predatory species were found associated with the peach twig borer *Anarsia lineatella* on peach trees:

- i. *Coccinella undecimpunctata* L (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)
- ii. *Rodalia cardinalis* Mulsant (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)
- iii. *Scymnus syriacus* Marseul (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)
- iv. *Syrphus sp.* (Diptera: Syrphidae).

The predators seem to be less active than that of parasites, since the average number of predators recorded 5.75, 10.75, 19.75, 26 and 20 during February, March, April, May and June respectively, **Table (2) and Fig. (4).** These numbers seem to be few than that expected to be found. It may be due to the behaviour of such pest. Positive correlation between the number of predators and the rate of infestation ($r = + 0.423$ ($p = 0.422$)) was detected. On the other hand the relationship between parasites and predator appear no significant correlation between each others ($r = 0.371$).

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نشاط حشرة ثاقبة براعم الخوخ *Anarsia lineatella* والاعداء الحيوية المصاحبة لها على اشجار الخوخ

[52]

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عشائيه الاجنحه هي: *Apanteles ruficrus* (Fam. Braconidae) و *Diplazon laetatorus* (Fam. Ichneumonidae) و *Microgaster tiro* (Fam. Braconidae) حيث تصل أعلى نسبة تطفل بها الى نحو 13.5% خلال شهر ابريل. وقد اظهر حساب مدى الارتباط بين اعداد الطفيليات ومستوى الاصابه بالحشرة ان الطفيليات تبدو اكثر فاعلية فى مقاومة الافة حيث ترتبط ارتباطا معنويا موجبا مع نسبة الاصابة ($r = 0.799$). وبالرغم من تواجدها اربع انواع من المفترسات هي:

Rodalia و *Coccinella undecimpunctata* و *Scymnus syriacus* و *cardinalis* و *Syrphus sp.* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) الا ان ارتباطها بنسبة الاصابة كان ضعيفا نظرا لقله أعدادها.

درس النشاط الموسمي لحشرة ثاقبة براعم الخوخ *Anarsia lineatella* على اشجار الخوخ ومدى ارتباط الاصابه بتواجد طفيليات الحشرة ومفترساتها أثناء موسمي 2005/2004. أظهرت النتائج ان نسبة الاغصان المصابة والخالية من اليرقات اكبر بنحو 12 مرة من تلك المحتوية على يرقات (15% و 1.25%) على التوالي خلال شهر فبراير. ويتقدم الزمن حتى شهر ابريل فان الوضع ينعكس حيث سجلت نسبة الاصابة 8% و 14.75% لكليهما على التوالي. أيضا اشارت الدراسة الى ان الاصابة على الثمار تبدأ فى الاسبوع الثالث من شهر مارس حيث سجلت 2% ووصل أعلى معدل للاصابة فى شهر مايو حيث سجلت 16.75%.

سجلت الدراسات تواجدها ثلاث انواع من المتطفلات تصيب اليرقات تنبع -ع

تحكيم: أ.د رشدى رزق الله
أ.د محمود السيد النجار