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PARASITISM OF *PLATHYPENA SCABRA* (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) BY *SINOPHORUS TERATIS* (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE)

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A study was conducted at the Ecology Research Center, Miami University, Butler County, Ohio, during the summer of 1990 to examine the effects of strip intercropping sorghum and soybean on the occurrence of parasitoids and incidence of disease in larvae of the green cloverworm, *Plathypena scabra* (F.) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), a sporadic pest of soybeans. The details of the experimental design and results are reported elsewhere (Williams et al. 1995).

Ten species of larval parasitoids were reared from a total of 1,522 *P. scabra* larvae (Williams et al. 1995). One species, *Sinophorus teratis* (Weed), has apparently not been reared from *P. scabra* larvae previously (e.g., Whiteside et al. 1967, Barry 1970, Lentz and Pedigo 1975, Roberts et al. 1977, Mueller and Kunnalaca 1979, McCutcheon and Turnipseed 1981, Hammond 1983, Pedigo et al 1983, Pavuk and Barrett 1993). However, Hammond (1983) reported a single specimen of *Sinophorus* sp. from green cloverworm, Lentz and Pedigo (1975) reared one individual of *Sinophorus validus* (Cresson) from *P. scabra*, and Pedigo et al. (1983) observed a small proportion of green cloverworm larvae parasitized by *S. validus*. *Sinophorus teratis* was formerly a synonym for *S. validus*; Sanborne (1984) removed *S. teratis* from synonymy with *S. validus* when he revised the world species of *Sinophorus*, and the two names now refer to two separate species. It is possible that records of *S. validus* from *P. scabra* may actually have been occurrences of *S. teratis*.

In addition, rates of parasitism of *P. scabra* by *Sinophorus* spp. in other investigations were extremely low compared to our findings. Percentage of green cloverworm larvae parasitized by *S. teratis* pooled across the sampling period (i.e., 27 July to 14 September; 8 weekly samples) in the five different soybean agroecosystems ranged from 2.3 to 5.3% (Williams et al. 1995). Surveys of green cloverworm parasitoids in the same study area but in different soybean agroecosystems in subsequent years failed to detect *S. teratis* (unpublished data). The occurrence of this parasitoid in this particular locality appears to be sporadic, and may be affected by varied plant community structure, among other factors (e.g., presence of alternate hosts). A survey on a larger scale and in widely separated, diverse soybean cropping systems would be valuable in determining the factors that may possibly influence parasitism of *P. scabra* by *S. teratis*.

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