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SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Natural Incidence of Egg Parasitoids of *Edessa meditabunda* (F.) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) on *Crotalaria spectabilis* in Campo Novo do Parecis, MT, Brazil

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Abstract

Egg parasitoids of the stink bug *Edessa meditabunda* (F.) were studied on rattlepod *Crotalaria spectabilis* used in soybean crop rotation in Campo Novo do Parecis, Mato Grosso state, central western Brazil. Seven species of parasitoids were found: two Encyrtidae, one Eurytomidae, and four Platygasteridae. The occurrence of *Trissolcus euchisti* (Ashmead) and *Trissolcus elimatus* Johnson (Platygasteridae) on eggs of *E. meditabunda* is recorded for the first time. Moreover, this is the first record of *T. elimatus* and *T. euchisti* from Brazil.

Stink bugs (Pentatomidae) are the most important pests of soybean (*Glycine max*) due to their high population densities and damage to seeds (Côrrea-Ferreira & Panizzi 1999, Belorte *et al* 2003). *Edessa meditabunda* (F.) is a stink bug that occasionally causes significant damage to soybean in Rio Grande do Sul state and in central western areas of Brazil (Corrêa-Ferreira & Panizzi 1982, 1999, Panizzi 1997). *Edessa meditabunda* can also feed and breed on alternate hosts or occupy overwintering sites. Most of the studies on the field biology of phytophagous stink bugs concentrate on crops, paying less attention or completely overlooking the role of wild plants in insect population buildup (Panizzi & Parra 2009).

The rattlepod *Crotalaria spectabilis* (Leguminosae) is commonly used as green coverage in soybean crops, and is important for nitrogen fixation, higher soil organic matter, and microbial activity (Gravena 1992, Kushida *et al* 2003). Studies are needed to determine the potential of this plant as a shelter to improve native populations of egg parasitoids of phytophagous stink bugs.

Biological control is an alternative to reduce populations

of stink bug pests on target crops. Hymenopterous egg parasitoids are probably the most important among the complex of natural enemies of stink bugs. In soybean, *Trissolcus basalis* Wollaston and *Telenomus podisi* Ashmead (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) are the main species attacking their preferred hosts, *Nezara viridula* (L.) and *Euschistus heros* (F.), respectively (Corrêa-Ferreira & Moscardi 1995, Medeiros *et al* 1997). Management of the green coverage that serves as alternative hosts for stink bugs can also be beneficial to increase natural enemy populations (Altieri 1989). Thus, in the present study we evaluated the natural occurrence of parasitoids on *E. meditabunda* eggs found on rattlepod crops, in Campo Novo do Parecis, Mato Grosso state, central western Brazil.

During September 2009, eggs of *E. meditabunda* were collected on rattlepod at the Fazenda São Paulo (S 13°06'54" W 57°57'14") in a 2 ha area (near a forest remnant) and taken to the laboratory. Egg masses were individually placed in Petri dishes, and kept at room temperature (26 ± 2°C; photophase 10h) until emergence.

Seven species of parasitoids were identified from eggs of *E. meditabunda*: *Ooencyrtus submetallicus* (Howard) and *Ooencyrtus* sp. (Encyrtidae); *Neorileya albipes* Girault (Eurytomidae); and *Gryon* sp., *Trissolcus urichi* Crawford, *Trissolcus elimatus* Johnson and *Trissolcus euchisti* (Ashmead) (Platygastridae). *Trissolcus elimatus* and *T. euchisti* are recorded for the first time from Brazil, and *E. meditabunda* is a new host record for both parasitoid species (Orr et al 1986, Johnson 1987). *Trissolcus urichi*, *Ooencyrtus* sp. and *Neorileya* sp. were previously reported parasitizing *E. meditabunda* and several other species of pentatomids on soybean in Paraná state, southern Brazil (Corrêa-Ferreira & Moscardi 1995). *Ooencyrtus submetallicus* had been already reported on eggs of *E. meditabunda* in Brazil (De Santis 1985).

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