

# POnTE

PEST ORGANISMS THREATENING EUROPE

## XF-ACTORS

XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA ACTIVE CONTAINMENT  
THROUGH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY-ORIENTED RESEARCH STRATEGY

## 2<sup>ND</sup> JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a  
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

### VALENCIA, 23–26 OCTOBER 2018

INSTITUTO VALENCIANO DE INVESTIGACIONES AGRARIAS (IVIA)  
46113 MONCADA (VALENCIA), SPAIN

## 2<sup>ND</sup> JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

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# POTENTIAL NATURAL BIOCONTROL AGENTS OF APHROPHORIDAE EGGS

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*Xylella fastidiosa* is a phytopathogenic bacterium detected recently in Europe. It causes important economical losses in different crops, mainly in olive, almond and vineyard. Up to now the Aphrophoridae *Philaenus spumarius* L. (1758) is the main identified vector in Europe. The information about Aphrophoridae biology is insufficient and the knowledge about its natural enemies reduced. Nymphs excrete spumes remaining protected from natural enemies. Therefore, eggs are likely the most vulnerable stage to the natural enemies action. In this work, the potential action of parasitoids, predators and fungi against eggs of Aphrophoridae was studied. For that, at the end of the winter and before the egg hatching, rests of the remaining vegetation in the ground cover, mainly Poaceae, were collected. In the laboratory leaves, particularly the interior part of the blade which is a common oviposition location for spittlebugs, were observed under binocular stereoscope. Viable eggs were introduced in petri dishes until hatching. A total number of eggs of 3841 in 322 eggs laying and with a mean of 12 eggs per egg laying was recorded. From them, 603 eggs were intact and 3238 had sings of natural control agent action. A potential action of predators (in 183 eggs laying), parasitoid (in 198 eggs laying) and entomopathogenic fungi (in 48 eggs laying) was observed. Additionally, 321 parasitoids emerged from 43 of the eggs laying. These results indicate that the eggs mortality due to beneficial organisms, particularly parasitoids, may have a high importance for the control of *X. fastidiosa* vectors