



DEVELOPMENT OF *ERIOPIIS CONNEXA* (GERMAR) (COLEOPTERA: COCCINELLIDAE) WITH EGGS OF *SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA* (J. E. SMITH) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

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Alternative methods for control *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) have been studied, including the use of Coccinellidae (Coleoptera), which are polyphagous predators in both larval and adult stages. *Eriopis connexa* (Germar) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) is an important predator with great potential for the biological control of corn and sorghum insect pests. The objective of this research was to evaluate the development of larvae of *E. connexa* with eggs of *S. frugiperda* as a food source, fresh, without (T1) or with (T2) scales or frozen by one day (T3) or six months (T4) or newly hatched caterpillars (T5). The entirely rearing process was developed inside acclimatized room under $25\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$, $70\pm 10\%$ RH and 12 hours of photophase. The experimental design was entirely randomized block, with four replications, each one composed by 10 larvae of *E. connexa*. The percentage of adults of *E. connexa* obtained was greater when its larvae received fresh eggs of *S. frugiperda* with or without scales or eggs frozen for one day (95, 100 and 92.5% of viability, respectively). Lower viability was obtained when the larva food source was eggs frozen for six months or newly hatched caterpillars of *S. frugiperda* (77.5 and 37.5% of viability). Period of time from larva to adult of *E. connexa* was 15.7; 15.8; 16.0; 17.6 and 17.3 days, respectively, with those diets. The highest viability of *E. connexa* with eggs of *S. frugiperda* indicates the potential of the predator as a component of biological control programs against the pest.