

MALE GRAPE MEALYBUG BIOLOGY

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Male grape mealybugs, Pseudococcus maritimus, were attracted to traps baited with virgin females. Virgin females were insured by field-collecting second and third instars and rearing them individually on potato sprouts in the laboratory. First male prepupa was observed in the lab on 19 May; first winged male on 23 May. Traps placed in vineyard 24 May, caught nothing on May 24 or May 25. Hundreds of males were caught May 26. Trapping continued until 13 June when no more males were caught. Females began to spin ovisacs in the vineyard 6 June and first eggs were laid 8 June. First egg hatch was observed 14 June. First male prepupa (second generation) was observed July 19. Traps were placed in the vineyard July 26 and first males were caught July 28. A broad peak of male emergence occurred in August and into September. The last males were caught October 5. Daily catches often exceeded 500/trap/day. Other aspects of biology and possible suitability of trapping as a survey technique will be discussed.