

**FIRST RECORD OF THE VEDALIA BEETLE, *RODOLIA*
CARDINALIS (MULSANT) (COLEOPTERA COCCINELLIDAE)
IN EL-BEIDA, LIBYA**

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(Received 20-11-2004)

INTRODUCTION

The vedalia beetle, *Rodolia cardinalis* (Mulsant) (Coleoptera : Coccinellidae) is an important predator of the true mealybug species (Homoptera : Margarodidae), such as the Egyptian fluted mealybug, *Icerya aegyptiaca* (Douglas), the seychellarum mealybug, *Icerya seychellarum* (Westwood) and the cottony cushion mealybug, *Icerya purchasi* Maskell.

Through the inspection of literature in Libya it was noticed that no registration of the vedalia beetle, *R. cardinalis* is mentioned (Hammad, 1974; Abd Elmgid *et al.*, 1981; El-Ghariani, 1992 and Abd-Rabou and Amin, 2003).

DISCUSSION

The vedalia beetle, *R. cardinalis* was collected from attacked individuals of the cottony cushion mealybug, *I. purchasi* in El-Beida City, Libya, which is about 350 Kilometer far from Egypt, on the ornamental plant [(Pearl Bush, *Exochorda racemosa* (syn. *E. grandiflora* Wilson)] (Genus : *Exochorda*, Family : *Rosaceae*).

During a visit to Libya, the first author found this predator suppressing the population density of the mealybug. The authors suggested that the predator may be introduced into Libya from any of the surrounding countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Niger, Chad and Sudan.

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