

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Notes on the New Parasitoid Species, *Coccidoxenoides peregrinus* (Timberlank) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) on *Planococcus citri* (Risso) (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) in Egypt

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The parasitoid species, *Coccidoxenoides peregrinus* (Timberlake) (= *Pauridia peregrina* Timberlake) was recorded for the first time in Egypt (April 2008) on the Citrus mealybug, *Planococcus citri* (Risso) infesting the ornamental host plant (Croton): *Codiaeum variegatum* at Giza region, Egypt. This parasitoid is a solitary, endoparasitoid and thelytokous species on this pest. The parasitoid adult female is about 1.29 ± 0.07 mm long and 0.302 ± 0.03 mm wide. It completed its life cycle in approximately one month at $27 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and 60 ± 5 % RH. The hyperparasitoid species, *Chartocerus subaeneus* (Forster) (Hymenoptera: Signiphoridae) was secured from the primary parasitoid mummies.

C. peregrinus was reported parasitizing *Planococcus ficus* on grapes in the Coachella valley, California, U.S.A. (Katz, 2000), and was previously used in biological control programs against *P. citri* in California, Bermuda, Chile and Italy (Bartlett, 1977; Bennett, 1959 and Zinna 1960). Joyes *et. al.* (2001) studied the behavior and host selection of this parasitoid, on *P. ficus*.

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