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**Natural Enemies Occurring in Rice Fields with a
Special Reference to the Egg Parasitoid,
Trichogramma evanescens Westwood**

BY

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CONTENTS

Abstract	
Introduction.....	1
REVIEW OF LITERTURE	4
1. Survey studies.....	4
1.1. Insect pests	4
1.2.Natural enemies.....	7
1.2.1. Insect predators.....	7
1.2.2. Insect parasitoids.....	9
2.Factors Affecting Biological Aspects of the Egg Parasitoid, <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	12
2.1. Cold storage of non-parasitized host egg.....	12
2.2. Cold storage of parasitized host egg.....	13
2.3. Effect of <i>T. evanescens</i> emerging time	15
2.4. Age of host eggs	17
2.5. Size of host eggs	18
3. Field evaluation to release of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> to control rice stem porer, <i>Chilo agamemnon</i>	19
MATERIAL AND METHODS.....	24
Study site.....	24
1. Survey of insect pests and natural enimes.....	24

1.1. Pit-fall traps.....	24
1.2. Sweeping net.....	25
1.3. Hand collecting.....	25
2. 2. Mass rearing.....	25
2.1. Angoumois grain moth, <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i>	25
2.2. <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	26
3. Factors affecting the biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	26
3.1. Cold storage of the non-parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i>	26
3.2. Cold storage of the parasitized eggs of <i>sitotroga cerealella</i>	27
3.3. <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> emerging time.....	28
3.4. Age of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> eggs.....	28
3.5. Size of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> eggs.....	28
4. Field evaluation of release of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> to control rice stem porer, <i>Chilo agamemnon</i>	28
5. Statistical analysis.....	30
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	31
1. Survey	31
1.1. Insect pests.....	31
1.2. Insect predators.....	34
1.3. Hymenopteran parasitoids.....	35
2. Factors affecting the biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	37
2.1. Cold storage of the non parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i>	
Emergence percentage of <i>T. evanescens</i>	37
Female's percentage of <i>T. evanescens</i>	37

Female longevity of <i>T. evanescens</i>	37
2.2. Cold storage of the parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i>	
Female's percentage of <i>T. evanescens</i>	44
Impacts of various cold storage times on F1 progeny of <i>T. evanescens</i>	44
2.3. Emerging time.....	48
Longevity.....	50
2.4 Age of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> eggs.....	53
Female longevity of <i>T. evanescens</i>	
Effect of host egg age on the emergence of F1 progeny of <i>T. evanescens</i>	56
2.5. Size of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> eggs.....	58
Female longevity of <i>T. Evanescens</i>	60
F1 progeny of <i>T. evanescens</i>	61
2. Field evaluation to the release of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> to control rice stem borer, <i>Chilo agamemnon</i>.	62
SUMMARY.....	65
REFRANCE	70
ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

Table (1): Survey of insect pests inhabiting rice fields, during 2017 and 2018 seasons at, Sakha Agricultural Research Station, Kafrelsheikh region.....	32
Table (2) : Survey of insect predators collected from rice nursery and permanent field, during 2017 and 2018 seasons, Kafrelsheikh region	34
Table (3): Survey of hymenopteran parasitoids collected from rice fields, during 2017 and 2018 seasons, Kafrelsheikh region	
Table (4): Impact of using cold-stored non-parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> on the biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	38
Table (5): Reductions in <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> biological aspects reared on cold –stored non-parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> for different durations.....	39
Table (6): Pearson correlation coefficients for time of parasitoid emergence and F ₁ emergence parama.....	39
Table (7): Impact of using cold-stored parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> on biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	42.
Table (8): Reductions in <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> biological aspects reared on cold –stored parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> for different durations	43
Table (9): Effect of using cold-stored parasitized eggs of <i>Sitotroga cerealella</i> on the emergence of F1 progeny of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	47
Table (10): Pearson correlation coefficients for cold-stored periods and % emergence, % female, female longevity, No. emergence of F1 progeny, and % emergence of F1 progeny.....	48
Table (11) : Emergence percentage of <i>T. evanescens</i> adults and sex ratio as influenced by emerging time (first generation.....	49
Table (12): Pearson correlation coefficients for some biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	50
Table (13) : Longevities of emerging <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> as influenced by emerging time of adults	51
Table(14): Pearson correlation coefficients for time of parasitoid emergence and longevity.....	52
Table(15): Pearson correlation coefficients for time of parasitoid emergence and F1 emergence paramaters	52

Table (17): Effect of host egg age on biological aspects of <i>Trichogramma evanescense</i>	45
Table(18): Pearson correlation coefficients host egg age and parasitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio.....	55
Table (19): Pearson correlation coefficients for time of parasitoid emergence and F1 emergence paramaters.....	55
Table (20): Effect of host egg age on the emergence of F1 progeny of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i>	57
Table (21): Pearson correlation coefficients host egg age and parasitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio.....	58
Table (22):Effect of host egg size on parasitism by <i>Trichogramma evanescense</i> parasitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio	59
Table (23): Pearson correlation coefficients egg size of <i>sittroga</i> and parasitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio.....	59
Tabl (24): Longevities of emerging <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> adults as influenced by host egg size	60
Table (25): Pearson correlation coefficients host egg size and parassitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio.....	60
Table(26): Effect of host egg size on the emergence ofF1 progeny of <i>T. evanescens</i>	61
Table (27): Pearson correlation coefficients host egg size and parasitoids emergence percentage and sex ratio.....	61
Table (28): Effect of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> release on rice plants damaged by <i>Chilo agamemnon</i> during 2020 growing rice season at kafr El-sheikh, Giza 178 cultivar.....	63
Table (29) :Effect of <i>Trichogramma evanescens</i> release on rice infestation by <i>Chilo agamemnon</i> during 2021 growing rice season at kafr El-sheikh, Giza 178 cultivar.....	64

Abstract

The world rice crop is attacked by more than 100 species of insects, 20 of them can cause economic damage. Insect pests that can cause significant yield losses are stem borers, leaf hopper and plant hoppers, chironomids and stink bugs. Biological control can play an essential role in reducing pest population in field crops,. *Trichogramma evanescens* is an effective egg parasitoid, and attacks a variety of serious insect crop pests especially lepidopterous ones in their early stages (their eggs). Eggs of *Sitotroga cerealella* were as one of the most commonly used as natural host for rearing *Trichogramma* spp.

The efficiency of *Trichogramma* parasitoids is negatively affected by the cold storage of the host eggs that are exposed to the parasitoid after being stored for various periods. Cold storage has an impact on the efficiency of *Trichogramma* parasitoids, female percentage and female longevity.

In addition, it was found that the earlier emerging parasitoids have higher biological aspects compared to later emerging ones.

Host egg age and size has asignificant effects on the rate of parasitism by *Trichogramma evanescens* increase in host egg age, reduce rate of parasitism. By contrast, the parasitism increases by increase of host egg size.

The field release of *T evanescens* proved to be efficient in controlling the rice stem borer, *chilo agamemnon* in both dead hearts and white heads.