

**FEEDING EFFICIENCY OF DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE
PREDATORY, MITE, *NEOSEIULUS CALIFORNICUS* (MCGREGOR)
ON THOSE OF *TETRANYCUS URTICAE* AND *PANONYCHUS
ULMI* (ACARI: PHYTOSEIIDAE & TETRANYCHIDAE)**

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(Manuscript received 14 September 2007)

Abstract

A laboratory study was conducted to evaluate the feeding efficiency of different stages of the predatory mite, *Neoseiulus californicus* (McGregor) (Acari: Phytoseiidae) on those of each of the two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch and the European red mite, *Panonychus ulmi* (Koch) (Acari: Tetranychidae). The predator larva proved to be a feeding stage. Average consumption of eggs, larvae, protonymphs, deutonymphs and adult males and females of *T. urticae* by the predator larva were: 1.1 ± 0.75 , 1.2 ± 0.74 , 0.8 ± 0.66 , 0.5 ± 0.58 , 0.6 ± 0.63 and 0.1 ± 0.36 individuals, respectively. These values gradually increased in the subsequent predator stages to reach in the case of the predator adult female with average of 15.4 ± 1.25 , 16.9 ± 1.15 , 12.6 ± 1.48 , 7.2 ± 1.07 , 9.2 ± 1.25 and 5.3 ± 0.99 individuals from the previous prey stages, respectively. Comparatively low numbers of different stages of *P. ulmi* were eaten by the predator individuals. Average consumption of eggs, larvae, protonymphs, deutonymphs and adult males and females of *P. ulmi* by the predator larva were: 0.8 ± 0.75 , 0.9 ± 0.66 , 0.6 ± 0.64 , 0.3 ± 0.48 , 0.5 ± 0.51 and 0.08 ± 0.27 from the previously mentioned prey stages, respectively. Also, these values gradually increased in the progressive predator stages to reach for the predator adult female 11.8 ± 1.38 , 13.0 ± 1.62 , 9.7 ± 1.73 , 5.6 ± 1.07 , 7.1 ± 1.52 and 4.09 ± 1.38 from *P. ulmi* different progressive stages, respectively. Thus, *N. californicus* adult female when fed on *T. urticae* or *P. ulmi* ate more than any other predator stages.

Also, prey eggs and larvae were eaten most frequently. The foregoing results showed that *N. californicus* can play an important role as a bio-control agent of the two tetranychid mites *T. urticae* and *P. ulmi*.

INTRODUCTION

Predaceous mites of the family Phytoseiidae are known to be effective natural enemies of several phytophagous mites species (Zaher, 1989, Croft, 1994 and McMurty & Croft, 1997). Croft *et al.*, 1998 indicated that *Neoseiulus californicus* (McGregor) is a more generalist feeder than *Neoseiulus fallacies* (Garman) and added that generalist feeders can feed on pollen. Takano-Lee & Hoddle, 2002. stated that behavior of *N. californicus* suggests that it is opportunistic and capable of capturing

several different types of prey. Vilajeliu & Vilarnau, 1992 reported that *N. californicus* (= *A. californicus*) was greatest at the time of maximum activity of *Panonychus ulmi* (Koch).

The aim of this work was to study the feeding efficiency of different stages of the predatory mite *N. californicus* on those of the two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch and the European red mite, *P. ulmi*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

I- Feeding efficiency of different stages of *N. californicus* on those of *T. urticae*

Feeding efficiency of the predatory mite, *N. californicus* on the two-spotted spider mite, *T. urticae* were conducted in the laboratory at $25 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $70 \pm 5\%$ R.H. Petri dishes were used as rearing units, coated on the lower surface with fine layer of cotton and put turned over in big Petri dishes full with water to provide the rearing discs with moist continuously. Five small pieces of discs (about 2.5 cm diameter) of mulberry leaves, *Morus alba* L. were put upside down on the moist cotton. A thin layer of tangle foot was painted around each leaf disc as a barrier to confine the mites to a definite area. The discs were changed when required. One egg of *N. californicus* was put on each disc for development to the adult stage on different stages of *T. urticae* and was observed twice daily. When the *N. californicus* larvae hatched, the amount of food required by every *N. californicus* stage was determined by exposing *T. urticae* either as eggs, larvae, protonymphs, deutonymphs and adult males or females, to the different predator stages. Each treatment consisted of 4 Petri dishes, containing 5 discs and each containing a known number of a given stage of *T. urticae* on each mulberry disc. One *N. californicus* larva was liberated in each disc, and the number of prey eaten during its larval, protonymphal, deutonymphal, and adult male or female were recorded. Surplus food was provided whenever the supply became low.

II- Feeding efficiency of different stages of *N. californicus* on those of *P. ulmi*:

The same technique was applied when rearing different stages of the predator on those of the European red mite, *P. ulmi*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. Feeding efficiency of different stages of *N. californicus* on different stages of *T. urticae*

Average daily consumption of eggs, larvae, protonymphs, deutonymphs, adult males and females of *T. urticae* by a larva of the predator mite, *N. californicus* was 1.1 ± 0.75 , 1.2 ± 0.74 , 0.8 ± 0.66 , 0.5 ± 0.58 , 0.6 ± 0.63 and 0.1 ± 0.36 individuals, respectively. These values increased with the predator protonymph with average of 7.6 ± 1.05 , 8.2 ± 1.25 , 5.6 ± 0.89 , 3.2 ± 0.85 , 4.4 ± 1.22 and 2.3 ± 0.87 individuals from the same prey stages, respectively. The consumption of prey by the predator deutonymph averaged 9.9 ± 1.05 , 10.4 ± 1.32 , 7.6 ± 1.23 , 4.4 ± 1.04 , 7.5 ± 0.58 and 2.8 ± 0.85 individuals from the previous prey stages, respectively. These values greatly increased with the predator adult female to reach 15.4 ± 1.25 , 16.9 ± 1.15 , 12.6 ± 1.48 , 7.2 ± 1.07 , 9.2 ± 1.25 and 5.3 ± 0.99 , while those for male predator were 7.8 ± 1.14 , 8.6 ± 1.11 , 4.9 ± 1.11 , 3.8 ± 0.94 , 5.2 ± 1.01 and 4.1 ± 0.93 individuals from the previous prey stages, respectively (Table 1). Several authors reported that the larvae, nymphs and adults had been observed feeding on all different tetranychid prey stages, (Ma and Lang 1973, Friese & Gilstrap 1985, Castagnoli & Amato 1991, Chant & McMurtry 1994, Palevsky 1997 and Gotoh *et al.* 2004).

Table 1. Daily average consumption of *T. urticae* different stages by those of *N. californicus* developmental stages at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. and $70 \pm 5\%$ R. H.

Predator	No. of consumed <i>T. urticae</i> (Mean \pm S.D.)					
	Eggs	Larvae	Protonymphs	Deutonymphs	Males	Females
Larva	1.1 ± 0.7 5	1.2 ± 0.7 4	0.8 ± 0.66	0.5 ± 0.58	$0.6 \pm 0.$ 63	0.1 ± 0.36
Protonymph	7.6 ± 1.0 5	8.2 ± 1.2 5	5.6 ± 0.89	3.2 ± 0.85	$4.4 \pm 1.$ 22	2.3 ± 0.87
Deutonymph	9.9 ± 1.0 5	$10.4 \pm 1.$ 32	7.6 ± 1.23	4.4 ± 1.04	$7.5 \pm 0.$ 58	2.8 ± 0.85
Female	$15.4 \pm 1.$ 25	$16.9 \pm 1.$ 15	12.6 ± 1.48	7.2 ± 1.07	$9.2 \pm 1.$ 25	5.3 ± 0.99
Male	7.8 ± 1.1 4	8.6 ± 1.1 1	4.9 ± 1.11	3.8 ± 0.94	$5.2 \pm 1.$ 01	4.1 ± 0.93

From the previous results, it could be noticed that, the predator adult female ate more than any other predator stage and the deutonymph ate more than protonymph. Also, the prey eggs and larvae were eaten most frequently. These agreed with that

obtained by Castagnoli & Amato 1991 and Gotoh *et al.* 2004 who stated that *N. californicus* showed a clear preference for *T. urticae* immature stages.

II. Feeding efficiency of different stages of *N. californicus* on different stages of *P. ulmi*

Daily average attacked eggs, larvae, protonymphs, deutonymphs, adult males and females of *P. ulmi* by *N. californicus* larva were 0.8 ± 0.75 , 0.9 ± 0.66 , 0.6 ± 0.64 , 0.3 ± 0.48 , 0.5 ± 0.51 and 0.08 ± 0.27 individuals, respectively. These values increased with the predator protonymph then deutonymph to reach 7.6 ± 0.92 , 8.0 ± 0.88 , 5.8 ± 1.31 , 3.4 ± 1.21 , 5.8 ± 1.21 and 2.17 ± 0.92 individuals, respectively. Predator female was voracious as it devoured daily average 11.8 ± 1.38 , 13.0 ± 1.62 , 9.7 ± 1.73 , 5.6 ± 1.07 , 7.1 ± 1.52 and 4.09 ± 1.38 individuals, while male ate 4.46 ± 1.38 , 5.09 ± 1.09 , 3.77 ± 1.09 , 2.92 ± 1.19 , 3.20 ± 1.14 and 2.40 ± 1.02 individuals daily from the previous prey stages, respectively (Table 2).

From the previous results, it could be noticed that, the predator adult female ate more than any other predator stages and that deutonymph ate more than protonymph. Also, the prey eggs and larvae were eaten most frequently

Present as well as previous studies indicated that *N. californicus* can play a good role in the control of *P. ulmi* (Villaronga and Garcia, 1988, Vilajeliu and Vilarnau 1992) and can reduce its population densities as a generalist tetranychid predator (McMurtry & Rodriguez 1987, McMurtry & Croft 1997 and Croft *et al.* 1998). This species can survive and reproduce on different mite and insect species and pollen (Castagnoli & Falchini, 1993; Sabelis & Van Rijn, 1997 and Croft *et al.*, 1998).

Table 2. Daily average consumption of *P. ulmi* different stages by those of *N. californicus*, at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. and $70 \pm 5\%$ R. H.

Predator	No. of consumed <i>P. ulmi</i> (Mean \pm S.D.)					
	Eggs	Larvae	Protonymphs	Deutonymphs	Males	Females
Larva	0.8 ± 0.75	0.9 ± 0.66	0.6 ± 0.64	0.3 ± 0.48	0.5 ± 0.51	0.08 ± 0.27
Protonymph	5.8 ± 1.03	6.3 ± 1.24	4.3 ± 1.18	2.5 ± 0.98	3.4 ± 1.21	1.78 ± 0.70
Deutonymph	7.6 ± 0.92	8.0 ± 0.88	5.8 ± 1.31	3.4 ± 1.21	5.8 ± 1.21	2.17 ± 0.92
Female	11.8 ± 1.38	13.0 ± 1.62	9.7 ± 1.73	5.6 ± 1.07	7.1 ± 1.52	4.09 ± 1.38
Male	4.46 ± 1.38	5.09 ± 1.09	3.77 ± 1.09	2.92 ± 1.19	3.20 ± 1.14	2.40 ± 1.02

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- 918 FEEDING EFFICIENCY OF DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE PREDATORY, MITE, *NEOSEIULUS CALIFORNICUS* (MCGREGOR) ON THOSE OF *TETRANYCLUS URTICAE* AND *PANONYCHUS ULMI* (ACARI:PHYTOSEIIDAE&TETRANYCHIDAE)
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الكفاءة الإفتراضية لأطوار المفترس الأكاروسى نيوسيولس كاليفورنيكس

NEOSEIULUS CALIFORNICUS (MCGREGOR)

عند تغذيته على أطوار العنكبوت الأحمرذى البقعتين والاكاروس الأحمر الأوربي

Tetranychus urticae Koch and Panonychus ulmi

(Koch)(ACARI:PHTOSEIIDAE&TETRANYCHIDAE)

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أجريت دراسة معملية لتقييم الكفاءة الإفتراضية لأطوار المفترس الأكاروسى *californicus* *Neoseiulus* (McGregor) عند تغذيته على الأطوار المختلفة لكل من العنكبوت الأحمر ذى البقعتين *Tetranychus urticae* Koch و الأكاروس الأحمر الأوربي *Panonychus ulmi* (Koch) ووجد أن يرقة المفترس طور متغذي . كما وجد أن متوسط الإستهلاك اليومي من البيض واليرقات والحوريات الأولى والحوريات الثانية والأطوار الكاملة لذكور وإناث العنكبوت الأحمر *T. urticae* بواسطة يرقات المفترس *N.californicus* كانت كالآتي : ١,١ و ١,٢ و ٠,٨ و ٠,٥ و ٠,٦ و ٠,١ فرداً، على التوالي. وقد إزدادت تلك القيم بالتدرج في أطوار المفترس التالية لتصل في حالة إناث المفترس إلى: ١٥,٤ و ١٦,٩ و ١٢,٦ و ٧,٢ و ٩,٢ و ٥,٣ فرداً من الفرائس السابقة، على التوالي.

وقد تم لأفراد المفترس استهلاك أفراد أقل نسبياً من أطوار النوع *P. ulmi*. وقد كان متوسط استهلاك كل من البيض واليرقات والحوريات الأولى والحوريات الثانية وذكور وإناث *P. ulmi* بواسطة يرقات المفترس هو: ٠,٨ و ٠,٩ و ٠,٦ و ٠,٣ و ٠,٥ و ٠,٨ فرداً للأطوار السابقة، على التوالي. وأيضاً فإن هذه القيم قد إزدادت بالتدرج في أطوار المفترس التالية لتصل عند تغذية أنثى المفترس إلى: ١١,٨ و ١٣,٠ و ٩,٧ و ٥,٦ و ٧,١ و ٤,١ فرداً من أطوار الفريسة، على التوالي. ولذلك فإن إناث المفترس تغذت أكثر من الأطوار الأخرى. وكذلك فإن بيض ويرقات كل من النوعين *T. urticae* و *P. ulmi* يتم أكلها بشكل متكرر أكثر من الأطوار الأخرى. وتدل الدراسة السابقة على أن المفترس الأكاروسى *N. californicus* يمكن أن يقوم بدور هام كأحد عوامل مكافحة الحيوية للعنكبوت الأحمر ذى البقعتين *T. urticae* و الأكاروس الأحمر الأوربي *P. ulmi*.