Scientific Note

Tachinid Parasites of Adult *Megalotomus parvus* West. (Hemiptera: Alydidae)

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Taquinídeos Parasitas de Adultos de *Megalotomus parvus* West. (Heteroptera: Alydidae)

RESUMO - De adultos de *Megalotomus parvus* West. coletados durante agosto-novembro de 1995 em guandu, *Cajanus cajan* e lablab, *Dolichos lablab* (Leguminosae) na fazenda experimental do Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Soja, Londrina, PR., obtiveram-se adultos de taquinídeos pertencentes a três gêneros diferentes: *Hyalomyia* sp., *Hyalomyodes* sp., e *Trichopoda* sp., os quais estão depositados na coleção de insetos do Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Soja, Londrina, PR. A incidência do parasitismo foi ocasional, confirmando os escassos dados na literatura de ser o parasitismo por Tachinidae em percevejos Alydidae um fato raro.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Insecta, Diptera, Tachinidae, inimigos naturais, percevejo.

The neotropical *Megalotomus parvus* West. is common in Brazil, associated mainly with legumes such as soybean, *Glycine max* (Massariol *et al*. 1979, Panizzi 1988), common bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris* (Paradela Fº. *et al*. 1972, Chandler 1984, 1989), pigeon pea, *Cajanus cajan*, and lablab, *Dolichos lablab* (Santos 1996). Despite the abundance and importance of *M. parvus* as a pest of legumes, very few data are found in the literature on its biology.

During August-November 1995, while colecting *M. parvus* adults in the field on pigeon pea and lablab plants at the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa) Field Research Station at northern Paraná, Londrina County (latitude 23° 11´ S, longitude 51° 11´ W), five adults with tachinid eggs on their body were obtained. These parasitized insects were taken to the laboratory (25 ± 1°C, 60 ± 5% RH, and 14 hL : 10 hD photoperiod) and put in plastic boxes (12.0 x 12.0 x 3.8 cm) lined with filter paper. Food (air-dried seeds of pigeon pea) and water (plastic lid with wet cotton) were provided.

Tachinid larvae exited from the *M. parvus* adults, but were unable to pupate. From additional adults collected in the field with tachinid eggs on their body surface and taken to the laboratory, 11 pupae were obtained. From those, three adult flies of three different genera were obtained: *Hyalomyia* sp., *Hyalomyodes* sp., and *Trichopoda* sp., which

are deposited in the insect collection at the Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Soja, Londrina, PR.

We know only two other reports of tachinids parasitizing alydid bugs: *Dionaea magnifrons* (Herting), parasite of *Riptortus clavatus* (Thunberg) in Japan (Satoshi Nakamura, personal communication to ARP); and *Trichopoda pennipes* (Fab.), parasite of *Alydus eurinus* (Say) in Florida, USA (Buschman and Whitcomb 1980). Apparently, alydids are not suitable hosts for tachinids because of their relatively small body size compared to preferred hosts such as Pentatomidae (Arnaud 1978). Presumably the alydids' small body size did not allow normal development of the fly in our collections (of 11 pupae only three emerged as adults). When small pentatomids are parasitized, adult tachinids smaller in size than usual are obtained (Panizzi and Slansky 1985). Also, alydids are, in general, more restless and, when disturbed, fly quicker than pentatomids, thus perhaps avoiding egg-laying by female tachinid flies.

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