

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Natural Enemies of *Nomophila* sp. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), a Cut-worm of *Eucalyptus grandis* (Myrtaceae) Seedlings in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, BrazilJOSÉ C. ZANUNCIO¹, CÉSAR A. D. TEIXEIRA^{1, 2} AND MARCOS F. SOSSAI¹¹Depto. de Biologia Animal, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, 36571-000, Viçosa, MG, Brazil. e-mail: zanuncio@mail.ufv.br²Embrapa Rondônia, Caixa Postal 406, 78900-000, Porto Velho, RO, Brazil.

An. Soc. Entomol. Brasil 28(2): 357-358 (1999)Inimigos Naturais de *Nomophila* sp. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), uma Lagarta-Rosca de Mudanças de *Eucalyptus grandis* (Myrtaceae) em Viçosa, Minas Gerais

RESUMO - A lagarta-rosca *Nomophila* sp. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) é considerada a principal praga em viveiros de *Eucalyptus grandis* em Viçosa, Minas Gerais. Durante um surto dessa praga, foram coletados e identificados os seguintes inimigos naturais da mesma: os parasitóides *Diplazon laetatorius* (Fab.), *Eiphosoma* sp. e duas espécies das tribos Porizontini e Mesostenini, da família Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera), e duas espécies da família Braconidae (Hymenoptera). Além dessas, foram coletados adultos predadores, pertencentes à família Forficulidae (Dermaptera), cujas espécies não foram ainda identificadas. Mesmo com a presença desses parasitóides e do predador, o número de indivíduos de *Nomophila* sp. permaneceu acima do nível de dano econômico, o que tornou necessária a aplicação de produto químico para o controle dessa praga.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Insecta, controle biológico, predador, parasitóide, viveiro de mudas.

During the nursery stage, the most important pests of *Eucalyptus* seedlings are the cut-worm caterpillars (Anjos *et al.* 1986), including *Nomophila* sp. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), which has been the main species of this group attacking *Eucalyptus grandis* seedlings in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. *Nomophila noctuella* (Schif.) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) had been observed in the States of Rio Grande do Sul (Silva *et al.* 1968) and São Paulo (Berti Filho 1981). An important characteristic of *N. noctuella* is that it can be airborne trans-

ported for up to 2,500 km (Wolff 1975). The number of generations of this species can be different according to the region but in most places two to four generations a year have been observed. In temperate areas this pest can hibernate during the winter as partial or fully developed caterpillars in a tunnel built in the superficial part of the litter. *N. noctuella* is polyphagous and can feed on cultivated horticulture species, besides annual and forest plants. Due to the heavy damage caused by *Nomophila* sp. in *E. grandis* seedlings,

caterpillars of this species and its natural enemies were collected during the months of November and December of 1986, in the seedling producing area of the Instituto Estadual de Florestas (IEF) located in the campus of the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), in Viçosa. *Nomophila* sp. caterpillars were brought to the laboratory where they were fed with *E. grandis* seedlings produced in the IEF nursery. *Nomophila* sp. adults were collected from January to March 1987 at the same local with light traps, and brought to laboratory where they were fed with bee honey diluted in distilled water at the proportion 1:4 (Silva 1980) aiming to keep a stock rearing of this pest in laboratory.

Predators collected in the *E. grandis* nursery and parasitoids emerged in the laboratory were sent to the Center for Identification of Phytophagous Insects (CIIF), of the Universidade Federal do Paraná, in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil for taxonomic determination. Parasitoids of *Nomophila* sp. collected in Viçosa were identified as *Diplazon laetatorius* (Fab.), *Eiphosoma* sp. and two species of the Porizontini and Mesostenini tribes, all of them belonging to the Ichneumonidae family (Hymenoptera). Besides these species, two other parasitoids of the Braconidae family (Hymenoptera) and one predator species of the Forficulidae family (Dermaptera) were obtained, but their identification at the species level was not possible.

Specimens of *Nomophila* sp. and of its natural enemies were deposited in the Museum of Entomology of the Universidade Federal de Viçosa, in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Field observations showed low impact of the parasitoids and the predator on the population of *Nomophila* sp., since even in their presence the damage caused by this pest was high, making necessary the application of insecticides.

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