

DESCRIPTION AND BIOLOGY OF MICROPLITIS MEDIATOR
(BRACONIDAE : HYMENOPTERA) - A GREGARIOUS PARASITIOD OF
AGROTIS SEGETUM (NOCTUIDAE : LEPIDOPTERA)

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ABSTRACT

Microplitis mediator (Haliday), a gregarious parasitiod was recorded for the first time from Agrotis segetum (Schiff.) in Ankara, Turkey. The study reveals that the female located its host by following the host's fecal path. It laid 15.5 ± 1.6 eggs in the body without decriminating the parasitized and unparasitized hosts. The newly laid eggs were elongated, oval in shape and 0.23 ± 0.004 mm long and 0.07 mm wide. These hatched out in 5, 4 and 3 days respectively at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and $30 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and 60 - 70% R.H. At these temperatures the larval period completed in 24.89 ± 0.62 , 18.16 ± 0.44 and 17.10 ± 0.47 days respectively. The prepupal period completed in 2 days at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, whereas, the prepupal plus pupal (cocoon) stage lasted for 10.87 ± 0.19 , 7.12 ± 0.04 and 6.24 ± 0.03 days at the above mentioned temperatures respectively. The adults started feeding and mating just after emergence. Female parasites started eggs laying after completion of preoviposition period which lasted for one day, 7 - 11 hours and 5 - 7 hours at the temperatures stated above. At these temperatures the adult female lived for 10.78 ± 0.23 , 5.36 ± 0.14 , 4.64 ± 0.1 days and laid 556.2, 483.9 and 363.4 eggs during these periods respectively, whereas at the same temperatures the adult male completed its life in 10.45 ± 0.33 , 4.75 ± 0.05 and 4.44 ± 0.10 days respectively.