

INSECT PARASITES OF CUTWORMS *AGROTIS* SPP. (LEPIDOPTERA:NOCTUIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Larvae of *Agrotis segetum* (Schiff) and *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hfn.) were collected in sugarbeet, gram, tomato, potato, cauliflower and spinach fields during 1980 and 1981 at the campus of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara, Turkey. A total of nine parasites *Microplitis mediator* (Haliday), *Meteorus rubens* (Nees), *Rogas dimidiatus* (Spin.), *Obtusodonta equatatoria* (Panz.) *Meloboris (Nepiera) collector* (Thunberg), *Lithomastix truncatella* (Dalm), *Perisceptia carbonaria* (Panz), *Peleteria rubescens* (Rob.-Desv.) and *Villa* sp. were observed and their level of parasitism was determined on each species.

INTRODUCTION

Cutworms (*Agrotis segetum* (Schiff) and *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hfn.)) are serious pests of various vegetables, fruits, cereals etc. A number of insect parasites of the larvae of *Agrotis* spp. have been reported in the literature (1 - 29). The present studies were carried out at the campus of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara (Turkey), in order to determine the level of parasitism of the larvae of cutworms by different parasites.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Larvae of *Agrotis segetum* and *A. ipsilon* were collected daily in fields of sugarbeet, gram, tomato, potato, cauliflower and spinach at the campus of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara (Turkey) from April to October 1980 and 1981. These larvae were reared individually in the laboratory at room temperature, in cups containing soil up to a depth of 5 cm. The cups were covered over with a muslin cloth from the top using rubber bands. Fresh leaves of sugarbeet were provided to the larvae and supplemented whenever needed. The parasites which