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Studies on Ecology of *Culex martinii* Medschid (Diptera : Culicidae) in Muğla, Ortaca-Sarıgerme Region

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Abstract: In this study, site selection for oviposition purposes, effects of different climatic factors on egg raft production, fecundity, seasonal occurrence and abundance of *Culex martinii* in Sarıgerme region, Muğla were studied over a period of two seasons (from August 1991 to June 1993). Each season represented a period between the date on which the first egg rafts were produced, till the date in early winter of the consecutive year on which the last egg rafts were laid. Mean monthly counts of egg rafts and number of egg per raft were made, and mean monthly climatic variables such as saturation deficit, and water and air temperatures were recorded. It was confirmed that *C. martinii* prefers shady areas for oviposition. It was established that maximum fecundity occurred in September and especially October of each season, therefore, the maximum population density was reached in autumn. The mean monthly egg raft production correlated best with mean monthly water and air temperatures with no time lag. High correlation coefficient was shown between egg rafts production and degree-months. It was concluded that, *C. martinii* is an excellent r-strategist, probably to ensure survival during adverse environmental conditions in winter.

Key Words: Muğla-Ortaca, Sarıgerme region, *Culex martinii*, ecology, habitat selection, egg raft production, fecundity, climatic factors, Türkiye

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