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Full Length Research Paper

Effects of the soil texture and the burying depth of the larvae on some biological parameters of *Ceratitis capitata* (Diptera: Trypetidae)

Ali Ahmed D¹, Soltani N², Kellouche A^{1*}, Mazouzi F¹

¹Faculty of Biological sciences and Agronomique sciences, Mouloud MAMMERI University, 15000 TIZI OUZOU (Algeria).

²Department of Animal Biology, Faculty of sciences, B. MOKHTAR University, 23000 ANNABA (Algeria).

*Corresponding author. Email: kader_kellouche@yahoo.fr Tel: 213 93 27 79 73.

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Abstract

We have studied the effect of the soil texture and the different depths on the emergence rate, the duration of pupation and the sex-ratio of the Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata*. Three different texture of soil have been tested: clay loam, silty clay loam and sandy loam. As far as the depth of burying of the larva is concerned, we have tested six varied depths from 2 to 20 cm. The results have shown that the silty clay loam texture reduces the emergence rate of *C. Capitata* but the sandy loam soil favours the pupation. The tested depths of burying revealed a significant effect on the emergence rate. The lowest depths (from 2 to 10 cm) permit a high emergence rate. However, the sex-ratio seems to be not influenced by the nature of the soil and less by the depth of burying.

Key words: *Ceratitis capitata*, depth of burying, emergence, pupation, sex-ratio, soil texture.

