Assessment of *Trichogramma embryophagum* (Hymenoptera:Trichogrammatidae) against *Sesamia* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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The role of *Trichogramma embryophagum* (Hymenoptera:Trichogrammatidae) (reared on *Heliothis zea* Boddie eggs) as parasitoid of the sugarcane and corn stem borers *Sesamia cretica* Led. And *S.nonagrioides botonephaga* T.&B., was assessed under laboratory and greenhouse condition. Data on seven biological parameters are presented. The laboratory results showed that *T.embryopham* reared on *H.zea* eggs parasitized 50% of *S.critica* eggs, compared to 58.5% of *S.nonagrioides* eggs. Percentages of emergence (87%), female progeny (71%), deform females (2.5%), and development time (8.9d) in *T.embryopham* reared from *S.cretica* eggs did not differ significantly from those reared on *H.zea* eggs (93%, 69%, 3.2%, 2d and 8.5d respectively). However, *T.embryopham* females reared form *S.cretica* eggs had greater body length (39mm) than females reared on *H.zea* (0.33mm). In the greenhouse conditions, *T.embryopham* parasitized an average of 56.4% of the *S.cretica* eggs masses were distributed on the corn plants), about 21.6% of the eggs were dessicated, probably due to puncturing by the parasitoid, compared with 4.1% in the control, where egg masses were distributed on the plants without release of *Trichogramma*. Results showed the potential for use *Trichogramma* to control corn stalk borers in a field IPM program.