

BOOK REVIEW

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL WITH EGG PARASITIDS. Edited by E.WAJNBERG INRA, Antibes, France and S.S.HASSAN, B.B.A., Darmstadt, Germany, 1994. 286 pp. (C.A.B. International, Wallingford, UK)

The egg parasitoids particularly *Trichogramma* spp. have undoubtedly had a significant role in boosting the status of biological control of crop pests. Destroying the pests in their egg stages, the egg parasitoids give no opportunity for the pest to hatch and damage the crop. Though *Trichogramma* is extensively used in many countries; sound knowledge of the egg parasitoids is urgently needed as rightly pointed out by the editors in the preface. The authors of this book have filled this gap by compiling all the available information pertaining to biological control with egg parasitoids. Beginning with the systematics of *Trichogramma* and its world-wide use for biological control on different crops, essential information on selection of *Trichogramma* species for biological control, large scale production and quality control and timing of releases is given. The chapters on habitat location, host recognition and acceptance by *Trichogramma* provide very useful information which can help the biocontrol workers to develop methods to enhance the effectiveness of the egg parasitoids. The chapter on genetic variation shows how a knowledge on the intrapopulation genetic variation in *Trichogramma* could lead to improved results in biological control.

The authors of different chapters have given useful conclusions, suggesting areas of future research which should stimulate new interest on egg parasitoids. Apart from providing scientific information on all aspects relating to the use of egg parasitoids in biological control, this book gives detailed information on mass production of the parasitoids, both on natural hosts and artificial diets, methods of utilization and release of *Trichogramma*, evaluation of effectiveness and quality control which should be quite valuable for all concerned with biological control using *Trichogramma*. This book is an excellent treatise which every student and biocontrol worker or researcher should possess.

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