Effects of host egg storage time on qualitative characteristics of *Trichogramma brassicae* (Hym.: Trichogrammatidae)

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Factors hindering the development of inundative biological control are insect rearing costs and provide an adequate amount of natural enemies at the appropriate time. Storage of natural enemies is a useful technique to increase time flexibility of parasitoids production, and coincide the natural enemies release with pest outbreaks period, and also could reduce costs of mass production. Another way for parasitoids is to keep host of natural enemies instead of biocontrol agent in cold. In this way because of lack of necessity to survive insect hosts after storage, temperature range and storage periods can be much more than that for predators and parasitoids. In this work, the effects of storage time of host eggs *Ephestia kuehniella* Zeller (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) on the qualitative characteristics of *Trichogramma brassicae* Bezdenko (Hym.: Trichogrammatidae) were studied. Qualitative characteristics of parasitoids consisted parasitism rate, adult emergence proportion, longevity, fecundity, number of deformed adults and sex ratio. Sterilized Mediterranean flour moth eggs (200) of different ages (1, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16 days) were separately exposed to *T. brassicae*. 24 h after beginning test, adult parasitoids were removed from the experimental units and parasite eggs were kept under standard rearing conditions (T 25±1ºC, RH 70±5% and photoperiod 16L: 8D). Observed data were subjected to ANOVA test. The results showed that host age did not significantly affect parasitism rate and number of deformed adults of *T. brassicae*. However, effects of host age on adult emergence proportion, longevity, fecundity, sex ratio of *T. brassicae* were significant. Adult wasps produced from host with one day storage time had maximum adult emergence proportion (0.95±0.01), longevity (14±0.99), fecundity (123.3±6.24) and sex ratio (0.86±0.01).

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