Functional responses of two chrysopid predators feeding on*Helicoverpa armigera (lep.: noctuidae) and aphis gossypii (hom.: aphididae)*

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Abstract

Predation on*Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) eggs and*Aphis gossypii* (Glover) nymphs by 3rd instar larvae of*Mallada desjardinsi* (Navas) and*Chrysoperla congrua* (Walker) was studied under laboratory conditions. Single predators that had been starved for 24 hours were isolated for 1 hour in 9 cm Petri dishes containing prey at densities of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 per dish. A type II functional response model gave a satisfactory fit to the data in case of*M. desiardinsi* preying on*H. armigera.* However, with C.*congrua*, a type III model gave a slightly better fit. For*A. gossypii*, functional responses of both predators did not differ from type II, with*M. desjardinsi* showing a significantly lower search rate and shorter handling time than*C. congrua.* Implications of these findings are discussed

Key-words

Mallada desjardinsi Chrysoperla congrua cotton eastern Tanzania fonctional response