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First Rearing Egg Parasitoid *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) on *Philosamia ricini* (Danovan) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) in Türkiye

Hilal Tunca Cosic, Evrim Arslantas, Fikriye Ocal, Burak Bingül, Eylem Demir, I. Meltem Ozçankaya, Elisabeth Tabone, Ety Colombel, Mathilde Capelli, Ozgur Toprak, et al.

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First Rearing Egg Parasitoid *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) on *Philosamia ricini* (Danovan) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) in Türkiye^a

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^a Research Project

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INRAE



Ooencyrtus pityocampae (Mercet)
(Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)

Philosamia ricini Donovan
(Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

Ooencyrtus pityocampae (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) is a polyphagous egg parasitoid that targets the insect pests of various heteropteran and lepidopteran families. *Leptoglossus occidentalis* (Heidemann) (Hemiptera: Coreidae) and *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (Den. & Schiff.) (Lepidoptera: Thaumetopoeidae), which are among the hosts of the parasitoid, cause significant damage to the forests of our country.

Biological control is one of the eco-friendly and effective control methods in forest areas. For this purpose, rearing studies of the parasitoid *O. pityocampae* were started in the Izmir Örnekköy Biological Control Laboratory. *Philosamia ricini* Donovan (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) has been chosen as a laboratory host. This host was obtained from the INRAE UEVT Antibes Biological Control Laboratory. Rearing of parasitoid and host were performed under controlled conditions of $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, $75 \pm 5\%$ R.H (relative humidity) and a photoperiod of 16 : 8 h (L : D = light : dark). *P. ricini* larvae were fed every day with *Ailanthus* sp. and *Ligustrum* sp. leaves.

We were obtained over 3000 *Philosamia* eggs per day. For the first time, *O. pityocampae* was reared for more than ten generations on the eggs of *P. ricini* in our country. Our current studies are focused on mass rearing and release studies of the egg parasitoid *O. pityocampae*.

