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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<sup>a</sup>

Hilal Tunca Cosic<sup>1\*</sup>, Fikriye Öcal<sup>2</sup>, Evrim Arslantaş<sup>2</sup>, Burak Bingül<sup>2</sup>, Eylem Demir<sup>2</sup>, İ. Meltem Özçankaya<sup>3</sup>, Elisabeth Tabone<sup>4</sup>, Ety-Ambre Colombel<sup>4</sup>, Mathilde Capelli<sup>4</sup>, Özgür Toprak<sup>5</sup>, Akın Emin<sup>5</sup>, Tuncay Can<sup>6</sup>, Benjamin Cosic<sup>1</sup>, Özden Açıci<sup>7</sup>, Hacer Can<sup>7</sup>, Yaşar Aksu<sup>8</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Research Project

<sup>1</sup>Ankara University, Agriculture Faculty, Department of Plant Protection, 06110, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>2</sup>Izmir Regional Directorate of Forestry, Örnekköy Biological Control Laboratory, 35510, Izmir, Turkey

<sup>3</sup>Izmir Regional Directorate of Forestry, 35430, Izmir, Turkey

<sup>4</sup>INRAE UEVT, Biological Control Laboratory, 06160, Antibes, France

<sup>5</sup>General Directorate of Forestry, 06705, Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>6</sup>Adana Regional Directorate of Forestry, 01120, Seyhan, Adana, Turkey

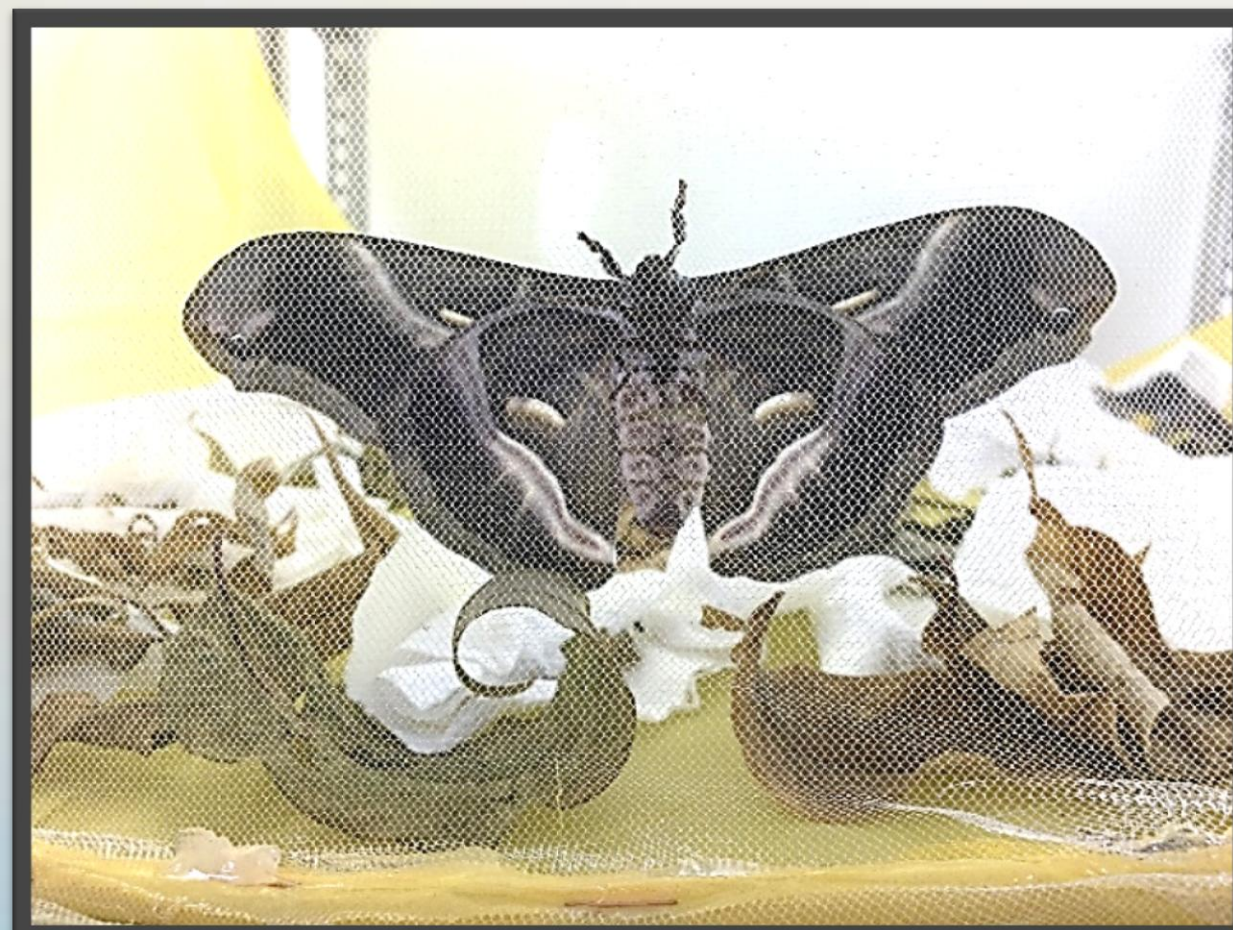
<sup>7</sup>Bursa Regional Directorate of Forestry, 16250, Osmangazi, Bursa, Turkey

<sup>8</sup>Artvin Regional Directorate of Forestry, 08000, Merkez, Artvin, Turkey

\*htunca@ankara.edu.tr



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*.

