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Spectrum of Egg Parasitoids and rate of Parasitism of Egg Batches of the pine processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (Den. & Schiff.) in the Northern Peloponnes/Greece

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ABSTRACT

Investigations have been performed on egg batches of *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* sampled in the regions of Kalogria, Vrachneika, Fteri-Egio 300 m a.s.l., Fteri-Egio 500 m a.s.l. and Patra, all situated in the northern Peloponnes - Greece. From the collected 113 egg batches the parasitoids *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet), *Baryscapus servadeii* (Dom.), *Baryscapus transversalis* Graham, *Anastatus bifasciatus* (Fonsc.) and *Pediobius* sp. have been established. The first two parasitoids were recorded at all of the five sites, while *Pediobius* sp. was found at Patra only. *B. servadeii* was the most abundant species at Kalogria, Vrachneika and Fteri-Egio 500 m a.s.l., and *O. pityocampae* at Fteri-Egio, 300 m a.s.l. and Patra, respectively.

The number of eggs parasitised by *O. pityocampae* varied from 3.6 to 23.4 % that were attracted by *B. servadeii* from 0.9 to 22.6 %, by *A. bifasciatus* from 0.1 to 1.8 % and by *B. transversalis* from 0.1 to 1.4 % respectively, at the different sites. *Pediobius* sp. was found to 0.3 % of the egg masses.

Key words: ***Thaumetopoea pityocampa***, egg parasitoids, Northern Peloponnes.

INTRODUCTION

In Greece, studies on egg parasitoids of the pine processionary moth were carried out in different parts by various authors (Kailidis, 1962; Bellin et al., 1990, Schmidt et al., 1997). Five egg parasitoid species were described: *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet), *Anastatus bifasciatus* (Fonsc.), *Baryscapus servadeii* (Dom.), *Baryscapus transversalis* Graham and *Trichogramma* sp.