STUDIES ON THE EFFICIENCY OF *TELENOMUS* EGG PARASITOIDS ATTACKING THE EGGS OF *SPODOPTERA* SPP.

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The searching efficiencies of the two parasitoid species, *Telenomus remus* and *Telenomus nawaii* were compared on *Spodoptera* eggs laid on Brussel's sprout and onion plants. The searching efficiencies of these two parasitoids were calculated separately using Nicholsonian equation

$$a = \frac{1}{P} \log_e \frac{N}{S}$$

The results showed that although the host finding rate of *T. remus* was significantly ($F=9.7$, $p < 0.01$) lower than that of *T. nawaii*, within the host eggbatch the searching efficiency (attack rate) was higher in *T. remus* than that of the latter due to its higher oviposition rate. The two parasitoid species showed no significant ($F=0.96$, $p>0.05$) difference in attacking host eggs laid on onion and Brussel's sprout plants.

The moths of *Spodoptera* spp. usually lay their eggs in 1-3 layers and cover them with scales. Therefore the effectiveness of *Telenomus* egg parasitoids mainly depend on how they exploit the host eggs in the lower layer of the eggmass. This study revealed that, in the *Spodoptera* spp., the proportion of eggs that were attacked by these two parasitoids on the top layer was significantly ($F=58.9$, $p<0.01$) higher than that in the lower layers.