

Interactions of the invasive *Drosophila suzukii* with native parasitoids in Switzerland



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Introduction

Drosophila suzukii has been introduced into Europe in 2008, it established widely and has become a serious pest of fruit crops. The fly provides a potential resource to natural enemies that have coevolved with native *Drosophila* species. To unravel the interactions of *D. suzukii* with native parasitoids in Switzerland we conducted a field survey to collect native parasitoids. Parasitoids were then exposed to *D. suzukii* in the lab. Results of this study provide baseline information on the influence of *D. suzukii* on the native parasitoid community as well as on the biocontrol potential of the investigated native parasitoids.

Field collections

Hymenopteran parasitoids collected

- Braconidae:** *Asobara* sp. (BS, ZH, TG)
Diapriidae: *Trichopria* sp. (TG, TI, VD)
Eucoilidae: *Leptopilina bouldardi* (ZH, TG, TI)
Leptopilina heterotoma (BS, ZH, TG, VD, VS)
Pteromalidae: *Spalangia erythromera* (BS)
Trichmalepsis microptera (BS, TG)
Pachcrepoideus vindemmiai (BS, ZH, TG, TI, VD, VS)

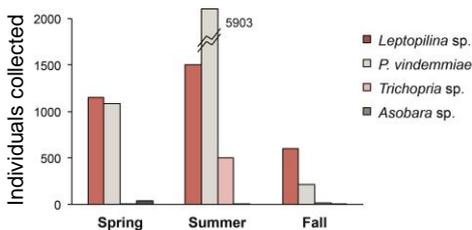


Fig. 2: Collected parasitoid individuals during early, mid and late season

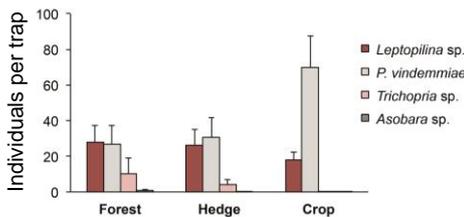


Fig. 3: Mean number of emerged individuals per trap (+SE) in different habitats.

Results

- 7 parasitoid species were collected
- *P. vindemmiai* most abundant species
- Almost no *Trichopria* sp. found in crops

Method



Field collection

- 6 regions in Switzerland
- Each 12 locations (natural habitats and fruit crops)
- 4-day sampling during early, mid, and late growing season
- Delta traps baited with fruits infested by *Drosophila melanogaster*
- Collection of naturally infested fruits



Fig. 1: A: Field samples were kept at 22°C/70% RH for 6 weeks, emerged parasitoids were collected 3x/week

B: Lab cultures were established separately for each species and region

Parasitization assays

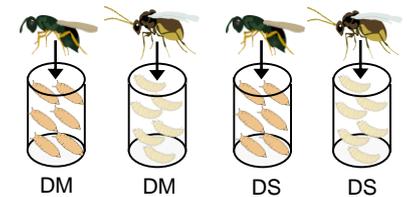


Fig. 4: No-choice parasitization assays were conducted (DM: *D. melanogaster*, DS: *D. suzukii*; 30-45 hosts; n=10-20)

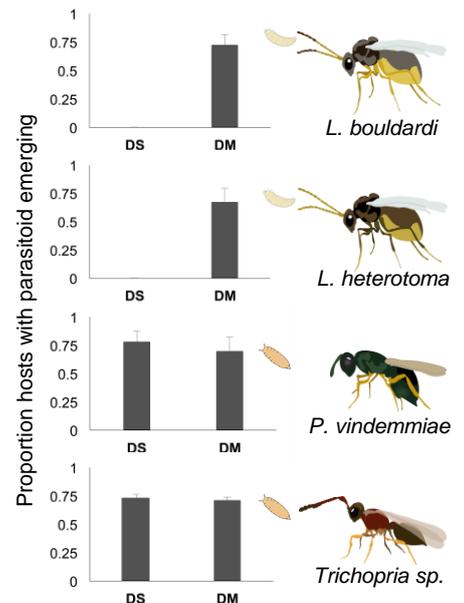


Fig. 5: Proportion of host pupae/larvae from which parasitoids emerged (all TI-strains)

Results

- The pupal parasitoids developed on DS
- The larval parasitoids parasitized DS but no offspring developed

Conclusion

Numerous native *Drosophila* parasitoid species are present in Switzerland. Some of them are able to include *D. suzukii* into their host range, while others parasitize this fly but cannot use it for reproduction. The native parasitoid community has a potential to reduce *D. suzukii* numbers in agricultural and natural habitats and has to be regarded when considering different pest control options.

Acknowledgements

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Numerous farmers for allowing access to their fruit crops