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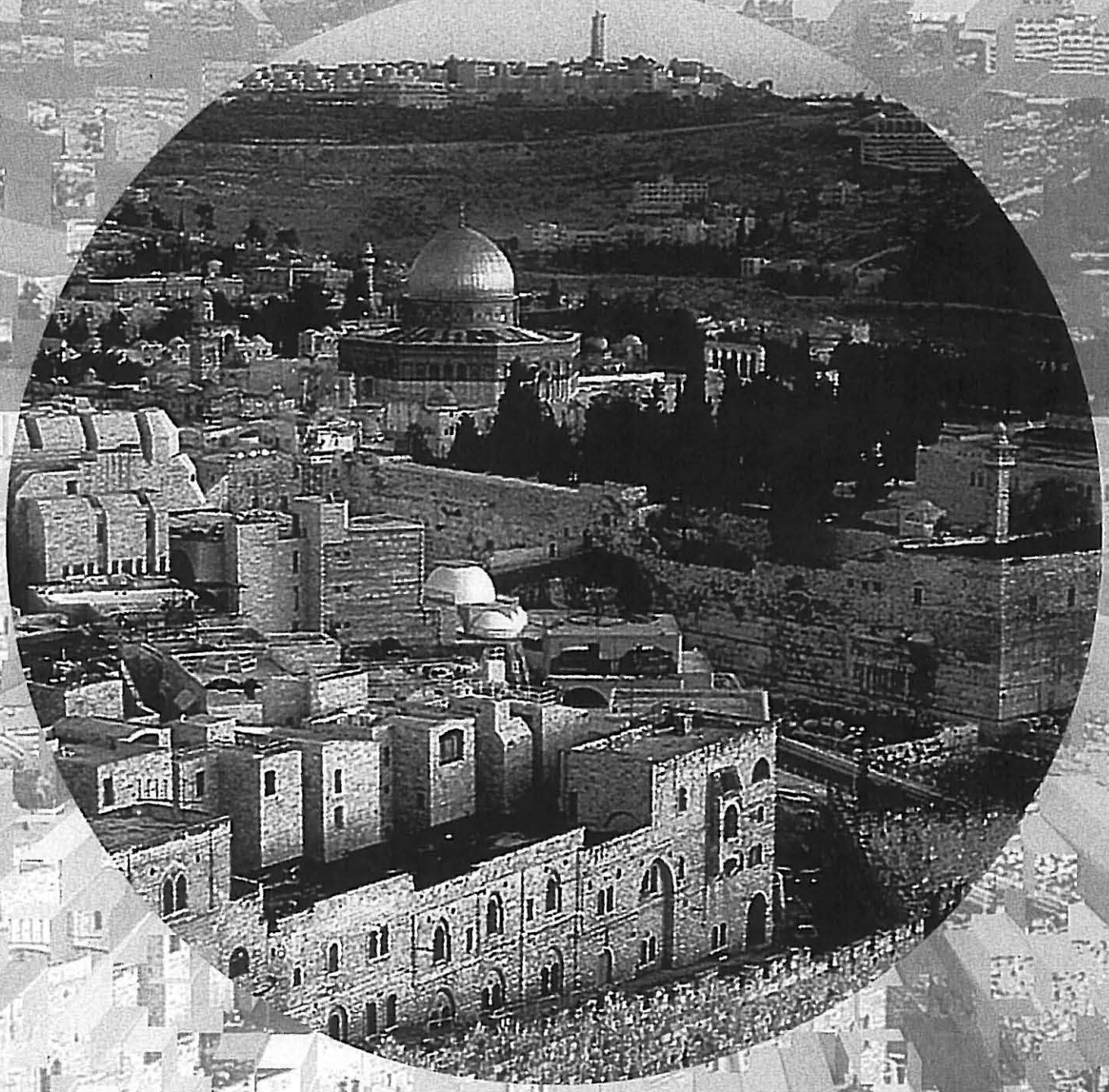

ABSTRACTS

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PARASITOIDS OF THE BLACK SCALE *SAISSETIA OLEAE* (OLIV.) (HOM.: COCCIDAE) ON OLIVES IN NORTH-EASTERN PORTUGAL

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Objective: The black scale, *Saissetia oleae* Oliv. (Hom.: Coccidae) is a major pest of olives in north-eastern region of Portugal. In the present work the results of a study on the parasitism of the various stages of the pest on trees in the above-mentioned region are reported. **Methods:** The study was carried out in 1997 and 1998 at, respectively, 120 and 183 sites distributed throughout the region. The samples were taken between the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. From each site two years old twigs were randomly taken from each of five randomly selected trees. A sample of 100 infested leaves per site was examined under the stereomicroscope and all stages of *S.oleae* were recorded. For the evaluation of the parasitization rate, the first instars were excluded. A total of 63 080 and 100 743 scales were examined, respectively, in 1997 and 1998. **Results:** The presence of the species *Coccophagus lycimnia* Walker, *C. semicircularis* Förster *Metaphycus flavus* Howard, *M. helvolus* Compere and *Scutellista nigra* Mercet, has been recorded. *Metaphycus* was the dominant genus of the parasite complex in 1997, representing 77,0% of the natural enemies recovered. However, in 1998 it dropped to 16,4%. On the other hand, the presence of the genus *Coccophagus* has increased from 7.7% in 1997 to 58,0% in 1998. Regarding the genus *Scutellista* it represents 1,0% of the parasite complex in 1997 and 21,0% in 1998. Nevertheless, it was found that the parasitization rates were low, reaching only 9,1% and 2,1% of the sampled population, respectively, in 1997 and 1998. However, parasitism reached 28,7% and 33,5% of the ovipositing females, respectively, in 1997 and 1998. **Conclusion:** This study suggests that the natural enemy complex of the black scale in the region is rich. Although, parasitization rates were relatively low in the studied period, this fact does not minimize the possibility that this complex can play an important role on the regulation of the *S.oleae* populations. **Acknowledgments:** This work was supported in part by the project PAMAF IED nº 6117.