



UNIVERSITY OF BARI  
Department of Plant Protection  
and Applied Microbiology



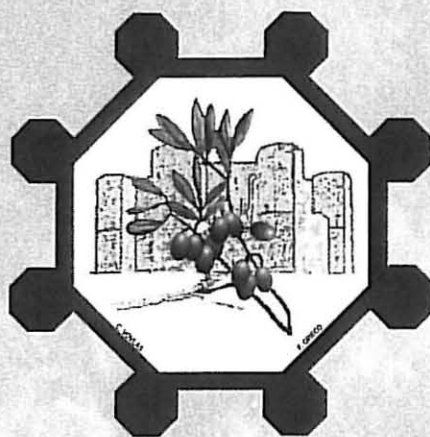
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE



CIHEAM - IAM.B  
Mediterranean Agronomic  
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**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**  
**ON**  
**OLIVE GROWING**

**OLIVE 2000**



*Organized in collaboration with:*  
**International Olive Oil Council**  
*and*  
**Regione Puglia**

**PROGRAMME**  
**ABSTRACTS and LIST of PARTICIPANTS**

**25 - 30 September, 2000**

CIHEAM - IAM.B  
Valenzano (Bari) ITALY

THE DETECTION OF PREDATORS OF *PRAYS OLEAE* (LEP: PLUTELLIDAE) IN PORTUGUESE OLIVE ORCHARDS USING THE IMMUNOLOGICAL ELISA

C. Lozano, T. Morris y M. Campos  
Dpto. Agroecología y Protección Vegetal  
Estación Experimental del Zaidín (CSIC)  
Profesor Albareda, 1 18008 Granada (España)

J.A. Pereira y A. Bento  
Escola Superior Agraria de Bragança  
Apartado 172  
5300 Bragança (Portugal)

In this work, the study of predators of *P. oleae* has been carried out using the immunological ELISA. This assay was applied on 820 individuals collected during 1998 and 1999, in an olive orchard placed in the North of Portugal. The canopies of 50 olive trees were sampled weekly shaking five times a branch (ca. 1 m of length) per tree. In the first year, predators only showed a positive result in the immunological assay in the last 2 weeks of June and in the first week of July. In this period, eggs and larvae from the carpophagous generation are present. In the second year, the positives appeared at the end of March and first fortnight of April, when larvae and pupae from the philophagous generation are present, and at the end of April and first fortnight of May, when development stages from anthophagous generation are present. By groups, ants were the group mostly collected, representing a third of the total, and in which, more positive results in ELISA were obtained. Coleoptera, heteroptera and spiders are other groups, which have showed some relationship with the insect pest. These results are an important step for the knowledge of the different compounds and interactions of the olive agroecosystem and they will let define potential candidates for the biological control of *P. oleae*.