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HOW RESEARCH CAN SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

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DRAFT

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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seedlings coming from these crosses were planted in experimental fields at the end of 2018 for their agronomical evaluation. The plantation followed a randomised block design, with five metres between rows and two metres between trees, using the cultivars Picual, Frantoio, Arbequina and Arbosana as controls. Hundreds of genotypes, which are derived from potentially resistant crossings, will be planted in the same experimental fields during this year. Once selected according to their agronomical traits, the resistance to XF of the best-performing olive genotypes will be tested under controlled as well as field conditions. These potential new olive cultivars can give rise to olive oils with valuable organoleptical qualities, increasing the competitiveness of the sector.

Searching for *Xylella fastidiosa* solutions: survey natural enemies of Auchenorrhyncha eggs

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Abstract: The dangerous phytopathogenic bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al., 1987) has been recently detected in Portugal (January 2019). This disease is transmitted horizontally from infected to non-infected plants by xylem-feeders that belong to the suborder Auchenorrhyncha. The information available until now about natural enemies is reduced. In this work the potential natural enemies of Auchenorrhyncha eggs, the most susceptible stage, were studied during the autumn/winter of 2018/2019. For that, from November 2018 to February 2019 before the egg hatching, on a biweekly basis, 10 samples of 50 g of rests of the remaining vegetation in the ground cover, mainly Poaceae, were collected in an olive grove. In the laboratory, leaves, particularly the interior part of the blade which is a common oviposition location for spittlebugs, were observed under binocular stereoscope. Viable eggs were introduced in petri dishes until hatching. A total of 647 egg-laying masses and 8,222 eggs with a mean of 12.7 eggs per egg laying was recorded. Egg masses were characterised and the action of predation, parasitism and fungi were recorded. Eggs presenting signs of parasitism plus predation were more than 50%. Intact field eggs were kept in controlled conditions until hatching of nymphs and evolution. The parasitoids were identified as *Paracentrobia* sp. (Trichogrammatidae) being the first report for the genus in Portugal. These results constitute an important opportunity to control the main insect vectors of *X. fastidiosa* and containing its spread.

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Bibliography

Wells

ResiXO: a project aimed to develop resistant germoplasm for the protection of olive tree heritage in Salento (southern Apulia, Italy)

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Abstract: With the general aim to find sustainable genetic/agronomic solutions for the coexistence of the strategic olive sector with the threat of the *Xylella fastidiosa* epidemic in Apulia, a five-year project, 'Strategies for the containment of olive quick decline: a research and study of resistant germoplasm for the protection of olive tree heritage in Salento (ResiXO)', co-funded in December 2018 by Apulia Region and CNR-Istituto Per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante. The Project has two main goals: several resistant