

SEASONAL POPULATION DYNAMICS OF *PH. FINITIMUS* IN TWO DIFFERENT GRAPE CULTIVARS

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ABSTRACT

From the data collected during this study were recorded mites of Phytoseiidae family (*Phytoseius finitimus*), tetranychid mites and tydeid mites. The main objectives of the study were to follow seasonal population dynamics of *Phytoseius finitimus* in two grape cultivars Sheshi i bardhë and Sheshi i zi; to see if there is any significant impact of temperature or tetranychid mites in the population of *Ph. finitimus*; to see if cultivars impact the population of *Phytoseius finitimus*. The study was carried out during 2015. The samples were taken from May to September every ten days, three times a month. During this study a considerable number of *Ph. finitimus* per leaves was recorded in both cultivars. We don't have a significant difference between populations and life stages of *Ph. finitimus* found in both cultivars. August was the most abundant month with *Ph. finitimus*, and the first period of August (29.08.2015) was the most abundant sampling period with *Ph. finitimus*. The least populated month with *Ph. finitimus* for both cultivars was May. The highest number of *Ph. finitimus* per leaf was found in the third period of August (29.08.2015), in Sheshi i bardhë grape cultivar (10 ± 06). In Sheshi i bardhë cultivar, we have found more adults than eggs and more larvae than eggs. These differences are statistically validated, whereas between adults and larvae we don't have a significant difference. In Sheshi i zi grape cultivar larvae was the dominant stage. We have found more larvae than eggs, more larvae than adults and more adults than eggs. These differences are statistically validated. In both cultivars, we don't have a significant influence of tetranychid mites and temperature in the population of *Ph. finitimus*. Tetranychid mites and tydeid mites are found in fewer numbers compared with *Ph. finitimus*.

Keywords: Grape cultivar, phytoseiid mites, *Ph. finitimus*, tetranychids.