

THE BEHAVIOUR OF USEFUL MITES IN AFUZALI GRAPE CULTIVAR DURING FOUR YEARS OF STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Afuzali grape cultivar for four years (2014-2017) in Radë, Durrës Albania and we have taken leaves once a month, from May to September. During this study we have identified and recorded 4 species of useful mites of Phytoseiidae family: *Amblyseius(Euseius) stipulatus*; *Anthoseius rhenanus (Typhlodromus rhenanus)*; *Phytoseius finitimus* and *Typhlodromus pyri*. We have also recorded mites of Tydeidae family. The main objectives of the study were: to identify species that are present in Afuzali grape cultivar during 2014-2017; to see if we have diversity on phytoseiid mite species; to find the dominant species and the most populated period; to find the percentage that occupies each species in the population of phytoseiid mites found in each year and in total, etc. From the results of the study, *Ph. finitimus* results the most common and dominant species. The second dominant species was *A. rhenanus*. According to years of the study, 2014 was the most populated year with phytoseiid mites. In this year we have found 38% of the total of phytoseiid mites. 2016 was the year with the greatest diversity of useful mites. In this year we have found 3 useful mite species from 4 useful mite species present during this study. The most abundant period with Phytoseiid mites was the fifth period of sampling in 2014 (2.2 ± 0.35 phytoseiid mites per leaf.). *Ph. finitimus* was the most common and can be found distributed through the season. *A. rhenanus* when it is present, can be found in all sampling periods. Whereas *A. stipulatus* and *T. pyri* have a different behavior compared with *Ph. finitimus* and *A. rhenanus*. *A. stipulatus* when it is present, can be found in the fourth (August) and the fifth sampling period (September), whereas *T. pyri* can be found only in the fifth sampling period (September).

Keywords: Afuzali, cultivar, *Amblyseius(Euseius) stipulatus*, *Phytoseius finitimus*, mites.