

N O T E

Parasites of Apion arrogans Wenck
(Col. Curculionidae) in Israel*

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The Vetch weevil Apion arrogans Wenck. is abundant in vetch fields in Israel. Females oviposit on the heads of vetch plants, where the development of the insect in all its stages takes place.

Parasitized Apion larvae were observed on vetch heads from infested fields. The body of the parasite, also in its larval stage, was sticking out of the host. Plant samples from an infested vetch field were collected and kept in cages in the laboratory. Examination of the plants before they were placed in the cages did not reveal any other pests, and it was assumed that parasites emerged from the A. arrogans larvae only. The percentage of parasitism, calculated after emergence of the beetles and the parasites had ended, was found to be 27%.

The following species of parasites were identified by the CILB in Switzerland: Trichomalus campestris Walk. - Pteromalidae; Trichomalus operosus Först - Pteromalidae; Necremnus tidius Walk. - Eulophidae; Entedon? longulus Erdős - Eulophidae; and Triaspis floricola Wesm. - Braconidae.

T. campestris comprised 51.6% and T. operosus 44.9% of the parasites; in other words, Pteromalids comprised about 96% of the total.

There are records of Apion species from which parasitic Hymenoptera have been recorded, mostly Pteromalids (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). There are no records of parasites in Apion arrogans, which is the most common species in Israel.

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