



Association between *Cycloneda sanguinea* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and aphids in cotton-fennel intercropping system

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The aphids cause damage on the field crop system, but some natural enemies can reduce their damages. The relationship predator-prey in fennel and cotton with colored fibers is important to ecologic interaction and integrated pest management. The objective of the study was to analyze the association degree between *Hyadaphis foeniculi* or *Aphis gossypii* and *Cycloneda sanguinea* on sole fennel, sole cotton or cotton-fennel intercropped to try reduce aphid populations and increase the predator populations over the time. The study was carried out at Experimental Station of Embrapa - Algodão, Paraíba, Brazil, in dark latossoil, under dryland conditions. A randomized block design was used with three treatments: (1) sole fennel, (2) sole cotton and (3) cotton with colored fiber intercropped with fennel in four replicates. The cotton aphid, fennel aphids and *C. sanguinea* presence-absence were evaluated in both crop systems during 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons. The data were analyzed with χ^2 and cluster analysis, using the software's R and SAS. There were positive associations between *C. sanguinea* and *A. gossypii* in sole cotton or cotton-fennel intercropping in 2010 ($\chi^2 = 8.69$, $P = 0.0032$; $\chi^2 = 10.98$, $P = 0.0009$) and in 2011 ($\chi^2 = 13.65$, $P = 0.0002$; $\chi^2 = 11.20$, $P = 0.0008$) or between *C. sanguinea* and *H. foeniculi* in sole fennel or fennel-cotton intercropping in 2009 ($\chi^2 = 17.23$, $P = 0.0000$; $\chi^2 = 10.10$, $P = 0.0015$) and in 2011 ($\chi^2 = 10.14$, $P = 0.0014$; $\chi^2 = 9.51$, $P = 0.0020$). *A. gossypii* and *H. foeniculi* time of occurrences were independently each other in the intercropping system in 2010 and 2011 seasons ($\chi^2 = 0.02$, $P = 0.8848$; $\chi^2 = 1.43$, $P = 0.2311$). *C. sanguinea* occurrence was usually associated with the intercropping systems in function of *A. gossypii* and *H. foeniculi* occurred in the crops over the years. These results contributed to *A. gossypii* and *H. foeniculi* control in intercropping systems.

Key-words: intercropping system, association, integrated pest management.

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