



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

Francisco S. Fernandes<sup>1,2</sup>; Francisco de S. Ramalho<sup>1</sup>; Wesley A. C. Godoy<sup>2</sup>; José B. Malaquias<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Embrapa Algodão, Caixa Postal 174, 58428-095 Campina Grande, PB, Brasil. Email: salesfernandes@usp.br. <sup>2</sup>Programa de Pós-Graduação em Entomologia. Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz (ESALQ), Caixa Postal 9, 13418-900 Piracicaba, SP, Brasil.

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  $\chi^2$  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.

**Support:** CAPES, ESALQ