

ABSTRACT

Olfactory mediated interactions between the host plant *Citrus aurantium*, *Toxoptera citricida* Kirkaldy (Homoptera: Aphididae) and *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* Cresson (Hymenoptera: Braconidae).

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The response of male and female *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* Cresson (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) to different odour sources of the host plant *Citrus aurantium*; the aphid host *Toxoptera citricida* Kirkaldy (Homoptera: Aphididae) and aphid – plant complex were investigated using a Y tube olfactometer.

Under laboratory conditions, it was found that, 70% of both male and female *L. testaceipes* showed high attractivity to aphid infested leaves. Other possible attractants were uninfested leaves from an infested tree and the aphid host. The organic compounds released by these combinations acted as semiochemicals or chemical cues in the tritrophic interactions. It therefore suggested that insect feeding induced attraction of the parasitoid *L. testaceipes*.

Keywords – *Toxoptera citricida*, *Lysiphlebus testaceipes*, olfaction.