

ABSTRACT

A study was done on the effects of parasitism and predation on populations of the pyraustid Syngramia haemorrhoidalis Guenée during the period October 1969 - March 1970. At least 33 per cent of the larval population contained parasites. Parasites found consisted of two species of tachinids, four species of braconids and one species of ichneumonid. Predation accounted for large numbers of larvae, the main predator being a Polybia species. It is also suggested that the time of feeding of S. haemorrhoidalis larvae may be restricted owing to disturbance by other fauna on the lantana plant. A high mortality rate of larvae was encountered both in laboratory-reared populations and in those collected from the field.

Under laboratory conditions it was found that the life cycle of S. haemorrhoidalis could be completed in about 30 days. One pair of adults could produce at least 250 viable eggs.