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**Biological control of the Mediterranean black scale *Saissetia oleae* (Olivier) (Hemiptera: Coccidae) on olive in Egypt**

**(abstract)**

The Mediterranean black scale, *Saissetia oleae* (Oliver) (Hemiptera: Coccidae) is the most important pest of olive in Egypt. Indigenous parasitoids of *S. oleae* from different localities were collected, reared and mass produced; about 113,000 parasitoids were released for augmentative biological control. At three locations in Egypt, several releases of the following indigenous parasitoids were made: *Alaptus* sp., *Baeoanuisa* sp., *Coccophagus lycimnia* (Walker), *Diversinervus elegans* Silvestri, *Metaphycus bartletti* Annecke & Mynhardt, *M. flavus* (Howard), *M. helvolus* (Compere), *M. zebratus* (Mercet), *Microterys flavus* (Howard), *Parechthrodryinus coccidiphagus* (Mercet) and *Scutellista caerulea* (Fonscolombe). The indigenous parasitoid *M. bartletti* plays an important role in controlling *S. oleae* in Egypt. Maximum parasitism rates by this species reached 83, 56% and 33 % on the Northern Coast, at Mersa Matruh and El-Arish, respectively.

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