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Influence of parasitism by encyrtid parasitoids on the feeding behaviour of the cassava mealybug *Phenacoccus herreni*

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Accepted: September 7, 2000

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Key words: Sternorrhyncha, Pseudococcidae, *Apoanagyrus diversicornis*, *Aenasius vexans*, *Acerophagus coccois*, Hymenoptera, Encyrtidae, electrical penetration graph, DC-EPG, stylet penetration

Abstract

Three encyrtid parasitoids *Apoanagyrus (Epidinocarsis) diversicornis*, *Aenasius vexans*, and *Acerophagus coccois* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) are used to control the cassava mealybug *Phenacoccus herreni* Cox & Williams (Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae), an important pest of cassava in South America. The influence of parasitism on the feeding behaviour of mealybugs was studied by observing honeydew secretion and by the electrical penetration graph technique (EPG, DC-system). Honeydew secretions were observed after parasitism until mummy transformation. No strong EPG parameter differences were found between parasitised and control insects. All results indicated that parasitised mealybugs keep feeding on the phloem sap after parasitism until mummy transformation. The main influence of parasitism on EPG parameters is the appearance of a new pattern resembling the E2 pattern at the extracellular level and labelled H. This pattern was also produced with control insects located on an unfavourable feeding site and could be associated with a stress response. It might be related to the still unclear E(c) pattern of aphids. The relationship of H to stylet activities is discussed.

Introduction

In South America (especially in Northeast Brazil), the cassava mealybug *Phenacoccus herreni* Cox & Williams (Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae) is an important pest of cassava, *Manihot esculenta* Crantz (Euphorbiaceae), particularly during drought periods when the insect population increases (Bellotti et al., 1983; Noronha, 1990). To control this mealybug, three encyrtid koinobiont parasitoids *Apoanagyrus (Epidinocarsis) diversicornis* Howard, *Aenasius vexans* Kerrich and *Acerophagus coccois* Smith (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) are being studied at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT, Cali, Colombia). They were released in semiarid areas of the Brazilian states of Bahia and Pernambuco in 1994 and 1995 (Smith & Bellotti, 1996; Bertschy, 1998). Despite the presence of cassava mealybug parasitoids, increases in pest populations are often reported during long dry seasons (Bellotti, pers. obs.). These increases

could be due to biochemical changes in the cassava leaves, induced by water deficiency, which has a positive effect on pest development and a negative effect on parasitoid development. In order to identify how some changes in the nutrition of *P. herreni* could influence parasitoid development, it was first necessary to study the feeding behaviour of parasitised mealybugs.

For koinobiont parasitoids (Askew & Shaw, 1986), whose larvae develop in a host that continues to feed and grow after having been parasitised, nutritional interactions with the host insect play an important role in insect parasitoid development (Vinson & Iwantsch, 1980) because the parasitoid larvae compete with the host tissues for available nutrients (Thompson, 1982; Cloutier, 1986), thereby affecting the host's feeding and food utilisation efficiency (Cloutier & Mackauer, 1979). Therefore, the type of food hosts consume will influence the development of their parasitoids (Harvey et al., 1995; Hofstetter & Raffa, 1997). Some studies have demonstrated that parasitism induces physiologi-

cal alterations of their hosts (Pennachio et al., 1994, 1995; Islam et al., 1997); in contrast, no study, to our knowledge, has clearly reported on the influence of parasitism on the host's feeding behaviour.

Phenacoccus herreni is a phloemophagous insect (Polanía et al., 1999). Assessing the pathways followed by stylets through leaf tissue can be done using the electrical penetration graph technique (EPG, DC-system). This technique was developed to monitor the probing activities by aphids (Tjallingii, 1978) and has since been used to study probing activity of the cassava mealybug *Phenacoccus manihoti* Matile-Ferrero (Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae) (Calatayud et al., 1994). The output EPG waveforms are determined by the insect's behaviour and position of the stylet tip in the leaf tissue (Tjallingii, 1988).

The purpose of this work was to study the influence of parasitism on the feeding behaviour of *P. herreni* using the EPG, DC-system. The parasitoid species used were *A. diversicornis*, *A. vexans* and *A. coccois*. As EPG recording is technically difficult to carry out continuously over several days due to moult formation by the mealybugs and limited computer storage capacity (see Material & Methods), the duration of mealybug feeding activity after parasitism was first estimated through observations on honeydew secretion to determine how long before mummy transformation the insects showed feeding activity. Just before this, parasitised insects were recorded by EPG, assuming that these EPGs are characteristic of the feeding behaviour of parasitised mealybugs.

Observations of *P. herreni* populations on plants – regardless of their developmental stage, sex and parasitism – show a distribution mainly around major leaf veins. Given that mealybugs are mobile and that it is impossible to wire them without removing/disturbing them, standardisation of the EPG method for parasitised mealybugs had to be worked out. The effect of insect location (near or far from a major leaf vein) on the EPG parameters was first studied to determine which leaf location would be better to observe the influence of parasitism on host feeding behaviour.

Materials and methods

Plants and insects. One-month-old cassava plants (cv. CMC 40), obtained from cuttings, were grown in individual plastic pots (30 × 22 cm) containing peat and sand in a glasshouse at 28–35 °C and L12:D12 photoperiod. A culture of *P. herreni* was maintained on

cassava (cv. CMC 40) in a glasshouse at 27–33 °C and L12:D12 photoperiod. Females at third instar, the preferred stage for parasitism (Van Driesche et al., 1987; Bertschy, 1998), and adult females from the colony were used for the experiments on the influence on EPG parameters of parasitism on the feeding behaviour of *P. herreni* and mealybug location on the leaf, respectively.

The parasitoids *A. diversicornis* (asexual strain), *A. vexans* and *A. coccois* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) were reared continuously on mealybug-infested cassava plants (cv. CMC 40) in a glasshouse at CIAT at 27–33 °C and L12:D12 photoperiod. Emerging adults were collected for each parasitoid species, placed in transparent polystyrene tubes (15 × 1.5 cm) for forty eight hours and fed with honey droplets. Then twenty female mealybugs at third instar were exposed to five female parasitoids and observed for parasitism. Only parasitised mealybugs were selected and used for the experiments.

EPG recording. Stylet penetration was monitored by an EPG-DC system (Tjallingii, 1988) with an input resistance of 10⁹ Ohm (Model Giga 4 DACQ 95, The Netherlands). Mealybugs were placed in a plastic petri dish for 1–2 min. A gold wire (2–3 cm, 17.5 μm) was then fixed to the dorsum of the insect with a water-based silver paint. The insect was connected to the amplifier before being placed on a leaf; experiments were carried out in a Faraday cage at a temperature of 30 °C. For EPG recordings, a MacADIOS 8ain data acquisition system (with a quickBASIC software and digitising card) was used, converting and storing (–5+5V) EPG signals at a 100-Hz sampling rate. The stored signals were then transferred to a Macintosh-based EPG analysis software (MacStylet), allowing off-line analysis and statistical treatment of the recording (Febvay et al., 1996).

To study the influence on EPG parameters of mealybug location on the leaf, adult females from the colony were recorded near or far from a major leaf vein. To study the influence of parasitism on the feeding behaviour of *P. herreni*, the parasitised third instar females were transferred to the lower side of a cassava leaf and enclosed in an adapted plastic petri dish. Nonparasitised mealybugs (third instar, used as control) were placed under the same conditions. Daily, a portion of thin-layer plate of silica gel 60 (Merck) was placed under each individual for eight hours and then revealed by ninhydrine reagent (0.2% in N-butanol) to observe honeydew excretion. The du-

ration of mealybug feces corresponding to the terebrations were observed between parasitism and mummy transformation (T2), and each was sealed in a gelatine capsule for easier handling at emergence. Mealybug mummies were not considered.

It was not possible to determine the exact time of mummy transformation by recording of the parasitism.

This same experiment was used to study mummy transformation. Both parasitised and nonparasitised mealybugs were used in the same experimental design for EPG recordings. Only mealybugs whose mummy transformation at emergence were confirmed by EPG recordings were done on the females.

EPGs. The existing EPGs of the cassava mealybug *P. manihoti* were used as a reference. The EPGs were distinguished on the basis of age level, relative amplitude, and electrical origin indicators. The EPGs are due to resistance fluctuations (emf) (Tjallingii, 1988). The aforementioned characteristics could be distinguished on the EPGs and are indicated hereafter. For spectral analysis, the software's Fourier transform (version 6.12) was used to obtain a digitised signal slice.

Number and total area under the curve were noted, and the EPG parameters were compared to obtain phloem phases and to study the influence of phloem finding, with

Statistical analyses. The EPG parameters were analysed using Statview software (Abacus Concepts). The data were analysed by Student's T test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The results are presented in Table 1 and subject

house at 27–33 °C and
 at third instar, the pre-
 Driesche et al., 1987;
 males from the colony
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 ing location on the leaf,

cornis (asexual strain),
 Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)
 mealybug-infested cas-
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EPG parameters of
 adult females from
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 on a petri plate of silica gel
 for eight
 with a 0.2%
 reagent. The du-

ration of mealybug feeding activity after parasitism,
 corresponding to the total time until no honeydew se-
 cretions were observed, was recorded (T1). The time
 between parasitism and appearance of mummies was
 recorded (T2), and each mummy was placed inside
 a gelatine capsule for verification of adult parasitoid
 emergence. Mealybugs showing signs of encapsula-
 tion and mummies where no adult parasitoids emerged
 were not considered. This experiment makes it pos-
 sible to determine the appropriate time for the EPG
 recording of the parasitised mealybugs just before
 mummy transformation.

This same experiment was duplicated, and before
 mummy transformation the insects were recorded.
 Both parasitised and nonparasitised mealybugs under
 the same experimental conditions were at adult stage
 for EPG recordings. Only EPGs done on parasitised
 mealybugs whose mummies showed adult parasitoid
 emergence were considered. For each treatment EPG
 recordings were done for a total of eight hours and ten
 females.

EPGs. The existing background work on the cas-
 sava mealybug *P. manihoti* (Calatayud et al., 1994)
 was used as a reference for correlating EPG pat-
 terns with various components of the stylet penetra-
 tion process. Different electrical waveform patterns can
 be distinguished on the basis of their duration, volt-
 age level, relative amplitude and electrical origin. The
 electrical origin indicates whether a pattern element
 is due to resistance fluctuation (R) and/or electromo-
 tive forces (emf) (Tjallingii, 1985). Apart from the
 aforementioned characteristics, peak and wave-shaped
 fluctuations could be distinguished in some patterns
 and are indicated here as 'peaks' and 'waves', respec-
 tively. For spectral analysis of some EPG patterns, the
 software's Fourier transform algorithm function (SAS
 version 6.12) was used to trace the spectrum of a given
 digitised signal slice.

Number and total duration of EPG parameters
 were noted, and the percentages of total duration of
 EPG parameters were calculated. Time to the first sus-
 tained phloem phases in a probe, used as an indicator
 of phloem finding, was noted.

Statistical analyses. Tests were performed with
 Statview software (Abacus Concept, USA). All vari-
 ables showing homoscedasticity and data normality by
 F test and Kolmogorov–Smirnov method, respectively,
 were analysed by Student's t-test for EPG parameters
 in Table 1 and subjected to Fisher's PLSD test follow-

ing the ANOVA for EPG parameters in Table 3. For all
 other variables (parameters 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 in Table 1;
 T1 and T2 in Table 2; parameters 6, 8 and 12 in Table
 3), nonparametric Kurskal–Wallis and Mann–Whitney
 U tests were applied. Before running the ANOVA, the
 data of parameters 3 and 9 in Table 3 were normalised
 by $\log(X + 1)$ transformation.

Results and discussion

**Influence of mealybug location on leaf on EPG pa-
 rameters.** *Phenacoccus herreni* EPGs showed strong
 similarity to waveforms produced by *P. manihoti* (Ca-
 latayud et al., 1994). Therefore it was decided to label
 them similarly (Figure 1), and by analogy it was as-
 sumed that *P. herreni* EPG patterns were correlated
 with stylet activities as follows:

- Pattern C is related to extracellular stylet path ac-
 tivities, mainly stylet piercing and salivary sheath
 formation (Figures 1a and 1b).
- Pattern pd is related to a short intracellular puncture
 during the pathway (sudden drops in the volt-
 age level maintained for about 12 s) (Figures 1a
 and 1b). Two subpatterns could be distinguished
 within pd (Figure 1b): pd1 with peaks at 1–2 Hz
 due to emf and pd2 with small irregular waves due
 to conductance as well as to emf (Calatayud et al.,
 1994).
- Pattern E represents a sieve-element puncture with
 sustained sap ingestion (Figure 1a). Honeydew se-
 cretions were always observed during this pattern.
 Two subpatterns could be distinguished within E:
 E2I (Figure 1c) with peaks at 1–3 Hz due to emf
 and E2II (Figure 1d) with small irregular waves
 due to conductance and emf (Calatayud et al.,
 1994). Although E2I was predominant, and some-
 times occurred alone, frequent alternations with
 E2II occurred.

Table 1 presents the different EPG parameters ob-
 tained for two insect locations (near or far from a
 major leaf vein). The main effect of insect location
 on EPG parameters was the appearance of an E2-like
 pattern at the extracellular level, labelled H, when
 mealybugs were recorded far from a major leaf vein
 (Figure 2 and Table 1); it might be related to the still
 unclear E(c) pattern of aphids (Tjallingii, 1990). This
 H pattern was observed in only seven of the ten in-
 dividuals recorded and no mealybug located near a
 major leaf vein showed this pattern.

Table 1. Means and standard errors ($n = 10$) of EPG parameters in association with two leaf locations (near a major leaf vein (v-insect) or not (insect)). Different letters in the same row indicate significance ($P < 0.05$) derived from the Student's t-test. The significance test for parameters 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 was carried out using the Mann-Whitney U method

EPG parameters	v-insect	insect
1. No. of nonpenetrations (np)	2.8 ± 0.5 a	5.1 ± 0.8 b
2. No. of cell punctures (pd)	78.9 ± 14.2 a	107.9 ± 14.0 a
3. Duration of total np (min)	26.4 ± 3.9 a	89.9 ± 25.5 b
4. Duration of total pd (min)	16.0 ± 3.0 a	23.3 ± 2.6 a
5. Duration of total cell-wall activities (C) (min)	166.3 ± 34.3 a	240.6 ± 20.2 a
6. Duration of total phloem phases (E) (min)	271.3 ± 39.5 b	30.7 ± 19.3 a
7. Duration of total H (min)	0	95.5 ± 36.2
8. Time to first sustained E in probe (min)	30.9 ± 8.4 a	123.6 ± 33.8 b
9. Percentage of np	5.5 ± 0.8 a	18.7 ± 5.1 b
10. Percentage of pd	3.3 ± 0.6 a	4.9 ± 0.5 a
11. Percentage of C	34.6 ± 7.1 a	50.2 ± 4.2 a
12. Percentage of E	56.6 ± 8.2 b	6.4 ± 4.0 a
13. Percentage of H	0	19.8 ± 7.5

Two subpatterns could be distinguished within H: H1 showing peaks at about 1–3 Hz and H2 with small irregular waves (Figure 2b). Although H1 was predominant and sometimes occurred alone, frequent alternations with H2 occurred. The H pattern occurred frequently in the first hour of a probe (Figure 2a) or sometimes gradually after a pattern E (data not shown), but no honeydew secretion was observed during this pattern. When the plant voltage was changed from the usual positive adjustment (Tjallingii, 1985) to about 0 V and then to negative, the H1 peaks were not inverted with voltage adjustment (Figure 2c), demonstrating that these peaks were due to emf and not to conductance fluctuation in the insect-plant circuit. This same observation was made on peaks of subpattern E2I at an intracellular voltage level (Calatayud et al., 1994). Voltage adjustments were also made within H2 and revealed that the irregular waves were due to conductance and emf (adjustments not shown).

Spectral analyses of subpatterns H1 and E2I showed similarities (Figure 3). In fact, approximately 60% of the H1 signal periodicity was around 1.56 and 3.22 Hz (Figure 3a); and 59% of the E2I signal periodicity was around 1.46 and 2.83 Hz (Figure 3b), indicating that these two signals are represented mainly by peaks at about 1–3 Hz. Given that H is at the extracellular level and that no honeydew secretion was observed during this pattern, it cannot be related to phloem ingestion.

Table 1 also shows that insect location influenced the phloem-finding process. The total duration and percentage of phloem phases (E) were significantly higher when the insect was located near a major leaf vein. In contrast, the time to the first sustained E in probe (indicator of phloem finding) was significantly lower. Moreover, the nonprobing parameters (e.g., no., total duration and percentage of nonpenetration) could be related to phloem-finding difficulties because several nonprobing events occurred, showing absence of a phloem phase (data not shown). These parameters were lower when the insect was located near a major leaf vein.

In conclusion, without introducing other influencing factors, insect location on a leaf strongly influences the EPG parameters. It appears important for EPG studies with mobile insects to respect the natural insect location to prevent artifactual variations of EPG parameters. For *P. herreni*, feeding near a major leaf vein facilitates the phloem-finding process. For the remaining EPG studies, only insects near a major leaf vein were recorded.

Influence of parasitism on the feeding behaviour of P. herreni. The duration of mealybug feeding after parasitism (T1) was significantly lower when the insect was parasitised by *A. cocois* (Table 2). The time between parasitism and appearance of mummies (T2) was significantly longer in mealybugs parasitised by *A. diversicornis*.

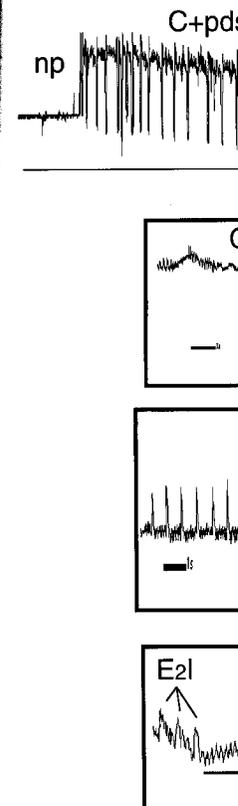


Figure 1. *P. herreni* EPG signals showing a sequence of cell-wall activities (C) and phloem cell ingestion (E) with nonpenetration (np). (b) Zoomed-in view showing patterns C and pd. (c) Zooming in E2, showing a phloem phase. (d) Zooming in E2, showing a non-phloem phase.

Furthermore, Ta... mealybugs fed on sa... (strong positive colo... drin, indicating the p... approximately one d... parasitoid species. D... formation process, t... honeydew secretion... EPG studies, parasiti... days before the appe... ing cessation of their... mification process... when mealybugs we... *A. vexans* and six... were exposed to *A. c... tions, some insects s... by EPG due to the... shown).*

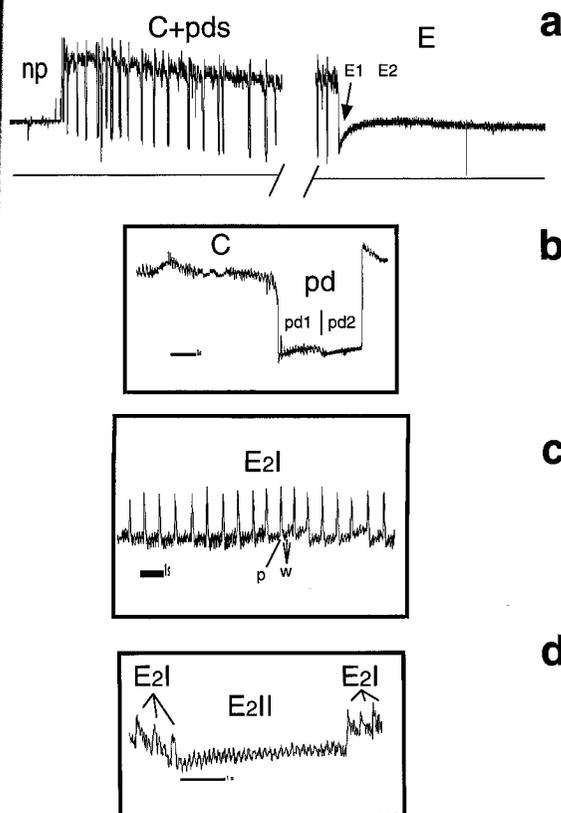


Figure 1. *P. herreni* EPG patterns. (a) Model 3-h recording, showing a sequence of cell-wall activities and cell punctures (C+pds) and phloem cell ingestion (E) with its two subpatterns E1 and E2 (np: nonpenetration). (b) Zooming in around an intracellular puncture, showing patterns C and pd with their two subpatterns pd1 and pd2. (c) Zooming in E2, showing subpattern E2I (p=peaks, w=waves). (d) Zooming in E2, showing subpattern E2II enclosed by E2I.

Furthermore, Table 2 indicates that parasitised mealybugs fed on sap and potentially on phloem sap (strong positive coloration of the honeydew by ninhydrin, indicating the presence of free amino acids) until approximately one day before mummification for each parasitoid species. During and after the mummy transformation process, the host ceased its feeding as no honeydew secretion was observed. For the following EPG studies, parasitised mealybugs were recorded two days before the appearance of mummies to avoid risking cessation of their feeding activity due to the mummification process (i.e., eight days after parasitism when mealybugs were exposed to *A. diversicornis* and *A. vexans* and six days after parasitism when they were exposed to *A. coccois*). Even under these conditions, some insects showed absence of stylet activities by EPG due to the mummification process (data not shown).

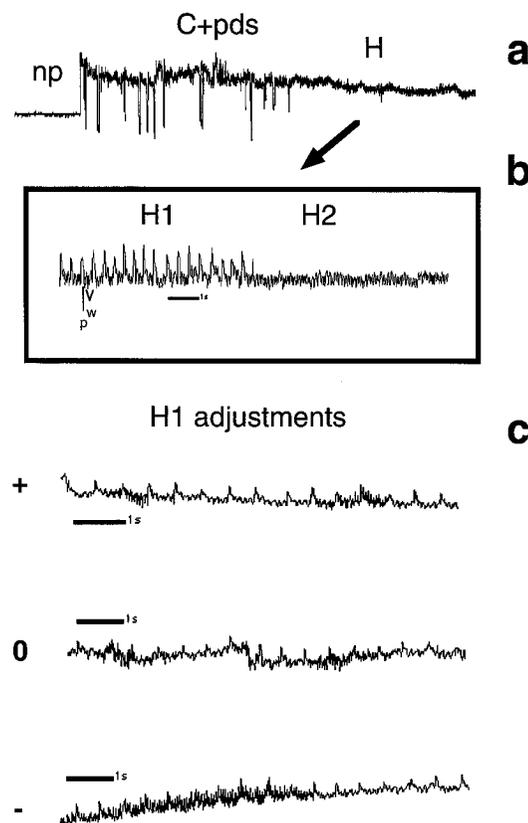


Figure 2. Details of pattern H from *P. herreni*. (a) Model 1-h recording, showing a sequence of cell-wall activities and cell punctures (C+pds) and the similar E2 pattern labelled H because of extracellular level. (b) Zooming in H showing subpatterns H1 (p=peaks, w=waves) and H2. (c) Voltage adjustments within H1 pattern, resolving the emf nature of the peak elements.

Table 2. Means and standard errors of total duration of mealybug feeding after parasitism (T1) and duration between parasitism and appearance of mummy (T2) for the three parasitoid species. Different letters in the same row indicate significance ($P < 0.05$) derived from the Mann-Whitney U method, following the Kruskal-Wallis test (n = no. of replications)

Durations (days)	<i>A. diversicornis</i> $n = 28$	<i>A. vexans</i> $n = 49$	<i>A. coccois</i> $n = 27$
T1	9.9 ± 0.2 b	8.9 ± 0.2 b	7.5 ± 0.1 a
T2	11.0 ± 0.3 b	10.0 ± 0.2 a	8.6 ± 0.2 a

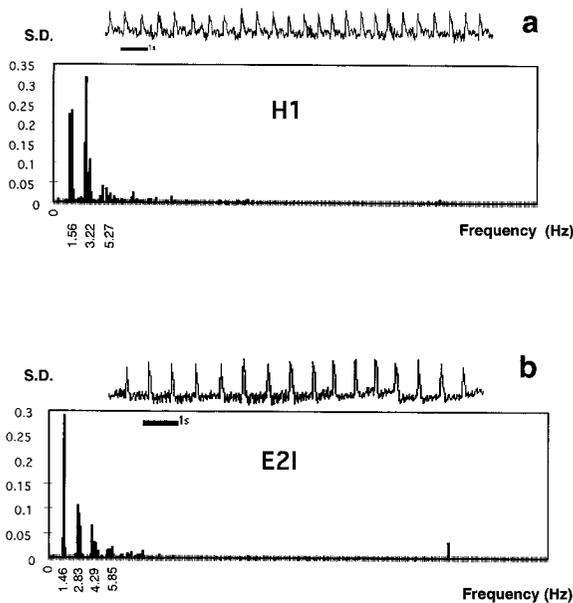


Figure 3. Spectral analysis of the different EPG patterns (Spectral Density estimate (S.D.) by frequency in Hz). (a) Frequency spectrum of subpattern H1 within H. (b) Frequency spectrum of subpattern E2I within E2.

Table 3 presents different EPG parameters obtained with *P. herreni* parasitised by three species of parasitoids, respectively. It appears that the parasitism had no strong influence on the EPG parameters (no statistical differences were found at the 5% level). Nevertheless, at the 10% level the duration of total phloem phases (E) and the percent E were significantly lower with parasitised mealybugs. In contrast, the time to the first sustained E in the probe was higher. These results could be related to certain phloem-finding difficulties or the lowest feeding activity among parasitised mealybugs. In fact, the endoparasite growing inside the host body could induce a sort of pathological weariness, causing the host to display less activity in finding phloem sap. This phenomenon is more evident when *P. herreni* is parasitised by the gregarious parasitoid *A. coccois*, [permitting larger numbers of progeny per host (Van Driesche et al., 1987)], where duration of total phloem phases (E) and the percent E were lower.

The main influence of parasitism on the EPG parameters was the appearance of the same pattern H found when the insect was located far from a major leaf vein. This pattern was not observed in all parasitised mealybugs; but nine, six, and five individuals of the ten mealybugs recorded parasitised by *A. diversi-*

cornis, *A. vexans*, and *A. coccois* respectively, showed H. No control insect showed this pattern.

As H was observed when insects were parasitised and when they were in a leaf location unfavourable for reaching phloem sap, this may indicate that H is related to an insect 'stress' phenomenon. In aphids the E(c) pattern occurred almost exclusively on nonhost plants (Tjallingii, 1986). To confirm the fact that the stylet position during H pattern is extracellular, microscopic observations could be useful. The classical stylectomy cannot be applied to *P. herreni* because it is impossible to view the labium protecting the stylets when the insect is rearing on the plant. The technique developed by Calatayud et al. (1996b) to immobilise a mealybug on plants using a high-frequency micro-cautery unit worked, but the process of obtaining the samples for microscopy removed the insect from the leaf, mainly because the stylets are not deeply inserted in the leaf tissues, supporting the hypothesis of the extracellular location of the stylets during this pattern.

Some arguments could be made in favour of the possible relationship of H to both salivation and ingestion activities. Like pd and E2, H is composed of two subpatterns. The subpatterns of pd and E2 show some similarities, by analogy, with stylet activities in aphids:

- The first period in the pd signal, called pd1 (Figure 1b), frequently began at the extracellular level before the sudden drop in voltage level. This pd1 pattern (emf origin) could be related to salivation into the protoplast as shown by the first period in the pd signal of aphids; while the second phase, pd2 (conductance as well as emf origin) could be related to ingestion of protoplasm as shown by the last period in the pd signal of aphids (Martin et al., 1997).
- The E2I peaks (emf origin) could coincide with muscular activity of the salivary pump as shown by the E peaks in aphids (Tjallingii, 1978), in which case E2I could be related to salivation into a sieve element; while the E2II pattern (conductance and emf origin) could be more related to ingestion activities.

Although these similarities need further investigation to verify any suggestion to a similar insect activity, the dichotomy of pd, E2, and H patterns suggests similar activity phases. Consequently, H1 (emf origin, Figure 2c) could be related to salivation into apoplast, while H2 (conductance and emf origin) could relate more to apoplast fluid ingestion. In previous work Vargas et al. (1989) showed that *P. herreni* extracts the

Table 3. Means and standard deviations (S.D.) of EPG parameters (letters in the same row indicate no significant differences between parameters 4, 5, 10 and 11 by a Tukey test ($P < 0.1$) for parameters 4, 5, 10 and 11).

EPG parameters

1. No. of nonpenetrations
2. No. of cell punctures
3. Duration of total phloem phases (E)
4. Duration of total ingestion phases (I)
5. Duration of total phloem phases (E)
6. Duration of total ingestion phases (I)
7. Duration of total phloem phases (E)
8. Time to first sustained E
9. Percentage of nonpenetrations
10. Percentage of phloem phases (E)
11. Percentage of ingestion phases (I)
12. Percentage of E2
13. Percentage of H

calcium from cassava leaves. It is well known that the cell wall is composed of calcium linked to pectin. In *P. manihoti* by Calatayud et al. (1996b) could also secrete pectinase, causing the degradation of middle lamellae and cell walls to facilitate ingress into the tissues. Moreover, as *P. herreni* feeds the leaves, the insect may ingest apoplast fluid. Based on these results, it is suggested that H1 could be related to ingestion of apoplast fluid.

Conclusions

The feeding behaviour of *P. herreni* on the leaves of cassava continues until the insect has transformed. In fact, the insect was observed until mummy transformation and no strong EPG parameters were observed between parasitised and nonparasitised mealybugs. Moreover, when adult females with viable eggs were fed, the insect continued to feed (not shown). All these results suggest that in this study are koinobionts that develop in a host that continues to live after having been parasitised. The phloem sap biochemistry

Table 3. Means and standard errors (n = 10) of EPG parameters in association with parasitism or nonparasitism. Different letters in the same row indicate significance (P < 0.1) derived from the Fisher's PLSD test following the ANOVA (for parameters 4, 5, 10 and 11 no letter was given because no significant difference was found by ANOVA). The significance test (P < 0.1) for parameters 6, 8 and 12 was carried out using the Mann-Whitney U method

EPG parameters	Nonparasitised	Parasitised by <i>A. diversicornis</i>	Parasitised by <i>A. vexans</i>	Parasitised by <i>A. coccois</i>
1. No. of nonpenetrations (np)	2.5 ± 0.3 b	2.3 ± 0.4 b	1.8 ± 0.4 ab	1.4 ± 0.3 a
2. No. of cell punctures (pd)	73.3 ± 13.6 b	54.3 ± 16.6 ab	38.5 ± 9.3 a	41.6 ± 8.0 a
3. Duration of total np (min)	25.3 ± 4.4 a	62.4 ± 16.0 ab	69.2 ± 25.0 ab	70.9 ± 22.7 b
4. Duration of total pd (min)	13.5 ± 2.8	11.0 ± 3.3	7.4 ± 2.3	9.3 ± 1.7
5. Duration of total cell-wall activities (C) (min)	145.0 ± 31.5	151.0 ± 37.8	123.5 ± 23.6	170.0 ± 26.8
6. Duration of total phloem phases (E) (min)	296.2 ± 37.7 b	101.0 ± 47.8 a	137.4 ± 36.4 a	97.0 ± 23.4 a
7. Duration of total H (min)	0	154.6 ± 46.2	142.5 ± 43.3	132.8 ± 44.2
8. Time to first sustained E in probe (min)	43.8 ± 11.2 a	84.4 ± 21.3 b	103.7 ± 28.4 b	87.9 ± 21.5 b
9. Percentage of np	5.3 ± 0.9 a	13.0 ± 3.3 ab	14.4 ± 5.2 ab	14.8 ± 4.7 b
10. Percentage of pd	2.8 ± 0.6	2.3 ± 0.7	1.6 ± 0.5	1.9 ± 0.4
11. Percentage of C	30.2 ± 6.6	31.5 ± 7.9	25.7 ± 4.9	35.4 ± 5.6
12. Percentage of E	61.7 ± 7.8 b	21.0 ± 10.0 a	28.6 ± 7.6 a	20.2 ± 4.9 a
13. Percentage of H	0	32.2 ± 9.6	29.7 ± 9.0	27.7 ± 9.3

calcium from cassava leaves, causing them to curl. It is well known that the cell wall contains a large amount of calcium linked to pectic substances. As reported for *P. manihoti* by Calatayud et al. (1996a), *P. herreni* could also secrete pectinolytic enzymes involved in the degradation of middle lamellae and primary cell walls to facilitate ingressing the stylets within host tissues. Moreover, as *P. herreni* extracts calcium from the leaves, the insect may also ingest calcium from apoplast fluid. Based on the foregoing, we suggest that H1 could be related to salivary activity and H2 to apoplastic fluid ingestion.

Conclusions

The feeding behaviour of parasitised mealybugs is to continue feeding on the phloem sap before mummy transformation. In fact, honeydew secretions were observed until mummy transformation after parasitism and no strong EPG parameter differences were found between parasitised and control insects (Table 3). Moreover, when adult females are parasitised, ovisacs with viable eggs were frequently observed (data not shown). All these results confirm that the species used in this study are koinobiont parasitoids, whose larvae develop in a host that continues to feed and grow after having been parasitised. Therefore, any changes in phloem sap biochemistry may influence not only the

biological performances of the host but also those of the endoparasite larvae.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to M. C. Duque for her help in spectral analysis of the EPG patterns and to Trudy Brekelbaum for her English corrections. We also thank three anonymous referees for their useful criticisms of an earlier draft of this manuscript.

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Factors affecting *Drosophila simulans*

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Accepted: September 7, 2000

Key words: insect Storage

Abstract

In this study we investigated the effect of storage quality in *Drosophila simulans* on (1) yield, and (2) ability to amplify DNA, but not on PCR success. The lowest yields were from specimens stored at the lowest temperatures. The most dramatic decrease in yield was observed in specimens stored at 291 K and 291 bp fragments. No significant difference was observed regardless of naphthalene treatment.

Introduction

As more efficient methods for extracting DNA sequence, many molecular analyses into taxonomic diversity, fortunately, not all specimens are of high quality for molecular analysis. Understanding of the parameters affecting the extraction of DNA in stored specimens could be useful (e.g. Dean et al., 1999).

The purpose of this study was to compare four killing methods and their effect on DNA quality. These methods were chosen because they are traditional and commonly used by entomologists. We define quality as the amount of extracted DNA, (2) extractability, and (3) ability to amplify from four target regions. This study helped identify potential factors affecting DNA quality. Post et al. (1993) found that DNA served in liquid nitrogen was of higher quality than those preserved in ethanol.

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