New Host Records of the Ladybeetle Parasitoid species Homalotylus sinensis in Iran (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)

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Homalotylus sinensis Xu & He 1997, a parasitoid species of ladybeetles was recorded for the first time for China. Now, its occurrence is also established for Iran, and its area of distribution may be suggested even more extensive. Morphological informations are provided and other data on the genus Homalotylus are reviewed.

Key words: Homalotylus sinensis Xu & He 1997 – Nephus bipunctatus (Kugelann 1794) – Coccinellidae – natural enemies – Parasitoid

1 Introduction

Ladybird beetles (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) are the most common and best studied natural enemies of aphids, soft scales, armored scales, whiteflies and mites [MAJERUS 1994]. The populations of ladybird species are limited by predators and parasitoids [DERA & GORDON 1990, MAJERUS 1994]. Parasitoids of coccinellids are represented by species from two families of Diptera (Phoridae and Tachinidae) and six families of Hymenoptera (Ichneumonidae, Braconidae, Pteromalidae, Encyrtidae, Eulophidae and Eupelmidae). The genus Homalotylus comprises the most important parasitoids of Coccinellidae with about 50 species worldwide [NOYES 2005]. Homalotylus sinensis has recently been reported as a larval parasitoid of Nephus bipunctatus (Kugelann 1794) [Col: Coccinellidae] from Iran [FALLAHZADEH et al 2006].

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