



HAL
open science

Contrasted genetic patterns in two egg-parasitoids associated with the complex species of the processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa/wilkinsoni* around the Mediterranean basin

Marie-Anne Auger-Rozenberg, Jean-Pierre Rossi, Magally Torres-Leguizamon, Claudine Courtin, Carole Kerdelhue

► **To cite this version:**

Marie-Anne Auger-Rozenberg, Jean-Pierre Rossi, Magally Torres-Leguizamon, Claudine Courtin, Carole Kerdelhue. Contrasted genetic patterns in two egg-parasitoids associated with the complex species of the processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa/wilkinsoni* around the Mediterranean basin. IUFRO joint meeting: 7.03.06 "Integrated Management of Forest Defoliating Insects" and 7.03.01 "Cone and seed insects", 2014, Antalya, Turkey. hal-02741419

HAL Id: hal-02741419

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02741419>

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Contrasted genetic patterns in two egg-parasitoids associated with the complex species of the processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa/wilkinsoni* around the Mediterranean basin

Marie Anne Auger-Rozenberg¹, Jean Pierre Rossi², Torres-Leguizamon M.¹, Courtin C.¹, Carole Kerdelhué²

¹INRA UR633 Unité de recherche de Zoologie Forestière, 2163 avenue de la pomme de pin, CS 40001 Ardon, 45075 ORLEANS cedex 2, France, Marie-Anne.Auger-Rozenberg@orleans.inra.fr

²INRA, UMR CBGP, Campus International de Baillarguet, CS 30016, 34988, Montpellier-sur- Lez, France, kerdelhue@supagro.inra.fr

Abstract: The winter pine processionary moth is a major pest that causes heavy pine defoliation around the Mediterranean basin. It is also a major public health concern because the late instar larvae bear strongly urticating hairs and cause allergic reactions both for human beings and domestic animals. This well-known forest Lepidoptera has been proved to belong to a species complex, comprising *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* and *T. wilkinsoni* which are respectively distributed in the Western part of the Mediterranean Basin and in the Middle-East. Previous mitochondrial data showed that each species exhibited a strong geographical structure over most of its geographical range. A highly differentiated clade was further identified in Eastern North Africa. Due to the contemporary climate warming, this pest species is expanding northwards and towards higher elevations, and shows a reduced genetic diversity in the recently colonized habitats.

All over the Mediterranean Basin, the pine processionary moths are associated to a rich community of natural enemies that comprises both parasitoids and predators. Among these, egg parasitoids have been extensively studied because they can act as biocontrol agents against the eruptive dynamics of their host. Our goal was to study the patterns of genetic diversity of two species of egg parasitoids, the generalist species *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Hym., Chalcidoidea, Encyrtidae), and the specialist *Baryscapus servadeii* (Hym., Chalcidoidea, Eulophidae). Using mitochondrial markers, we analyzed the phylogeographic patterns of both parasitoids species in order to determine if their evolutionary histories were similar, and to compare the main genetic structures between the parasitoids and their hosts throughout the Mediterranean Basin. The results showed that genetic diversity was very high in the specialist parasitoid, and that differentiated clades occurred in (i) Crete, (ii) North Africa and parts of Corsica, and (iii) the rest of the range. In contrast, genetic diversity was limited in *Ooencyrtus pityocampae*, and no phylogeographical signal could be identified in this species, in which 64% of the studied individuals had the same haplotype. Still, both species showed clear geographic structures, that did not correspond to the main mitochondrial clades and sub-clades identified in the pine processionary moth. The distribution of genetic variation on both parasitoids could not be explained by a host-plant effect. We further discuss whether congruent patterns could be identified at regional scales between partners. Interestingly, both parasitoid species were proved to have a very reduced genetic diversity along the latitudinal expansion corridor of the pine processionary moth in France, which suggests that these natural enemies also recently expanded northwards.