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► **To cite this version:**

Elisabeth Tabone, Hilal Tunca, ETTY Colombel, Marine Venard, Thomas Defferier, et al.. *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* Mercet rearing on three substitute hosts in laboratory to implement a biocontrol of *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* Den. & Schiff.. Processionary meeting 2018, Institut National de Recherche en Génie Rural, Eaux et Forêts de Tunisie (INRGREF). TUN., Dec 2018, Hammamet, Tunisia. hal-02787072

HAL Id: hal-02787072

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02787072>

Submitted on 5 Jun 2020

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***Ooencyrtus ptyocampae* (Mercet) rearing on three substitute hosts in laboratory to implement a biocontrol of *Thaumetopoea ptyocampa* (Den. & Schiff.)**

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Abstract

Egg parasitoids are considered as efficient biological control agents and are used worldwide for control of several pests in many crops. *Ooencyrtus ptyocampae* (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) is a polyphagous egg parasitoid which parasitises *Thaumetopoea ptyocampa* (Denis & Schiffermüller) (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae) eggs. To implement a biocontrol of pine processionary moth with these parasitoids, it is first necessary to rear *O. ptyocampae*. Because of allergy risks and problems of long life cycle and behavior, *Thaumetopoea ptyocampa* is not easy to rear so the use of substitute host is unavoidable. In this project, *Philosamia ricini* (Danovan) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae), *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) and *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) were evaluated all three as substitute hosts. Different biological characteristics of *O. ptyocampae* were determined for each one at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, $65 \pm 5\%$ RH, and a photoperiod of 16:8 h (L: D): development time, emergence rate, longevity, parasitism rate and fecundity. Results show that all three can be used to rear *O. ptyocampae*.

Keywords: *Ooencyrtus ptyocampae*, *Philosamia ricini*, *Halyomorpha halys*, *Nezara viridula*, rearing, biocontrol.