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**Performances study of *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) on the new factitious host *Philosamia ricini* (Danovan) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) to optimize its rearing**

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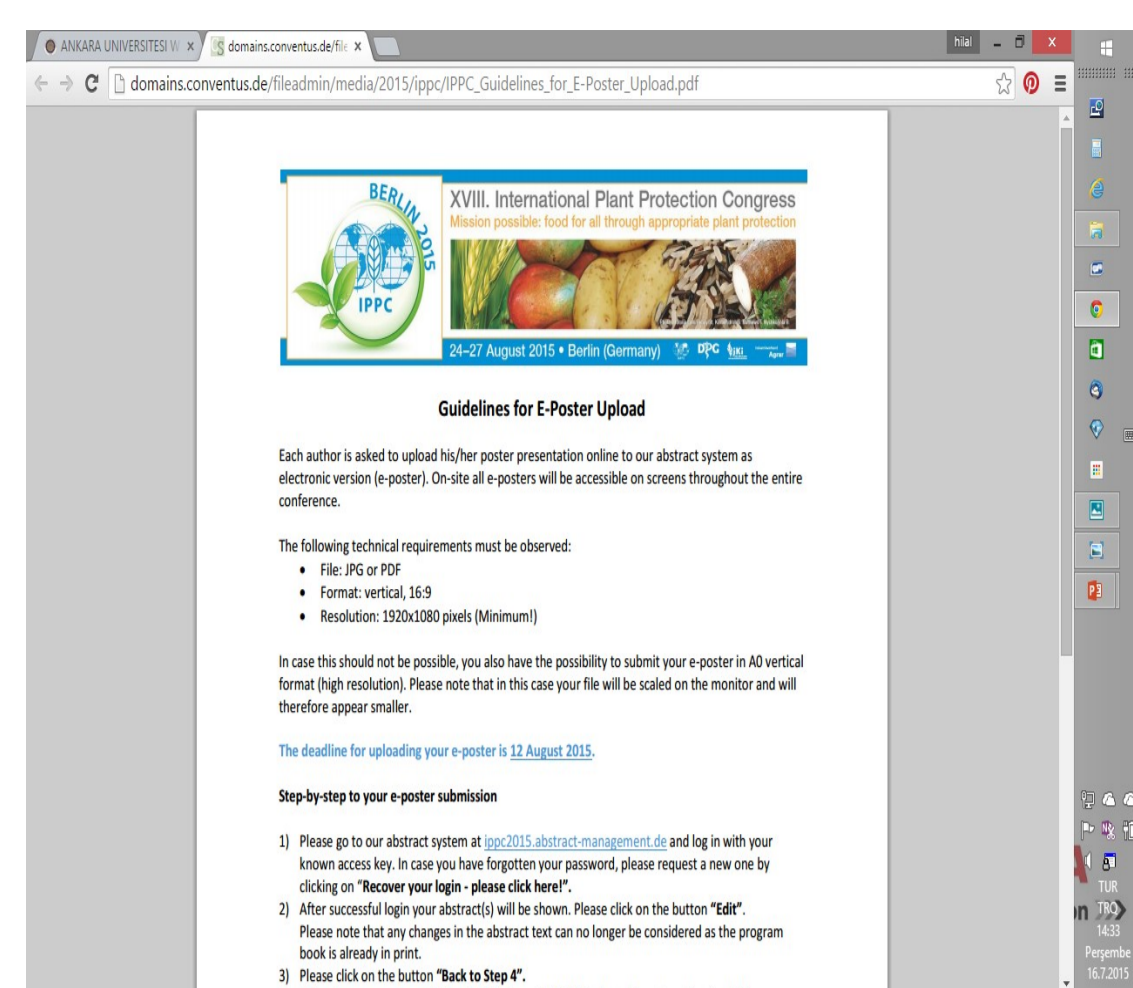
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# XVIII. International Plant Protection Congress

## Performances study of *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* (Mercet) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) on the new factitious host *Philosamia ricini* (Danovan) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) to optimize its rearing

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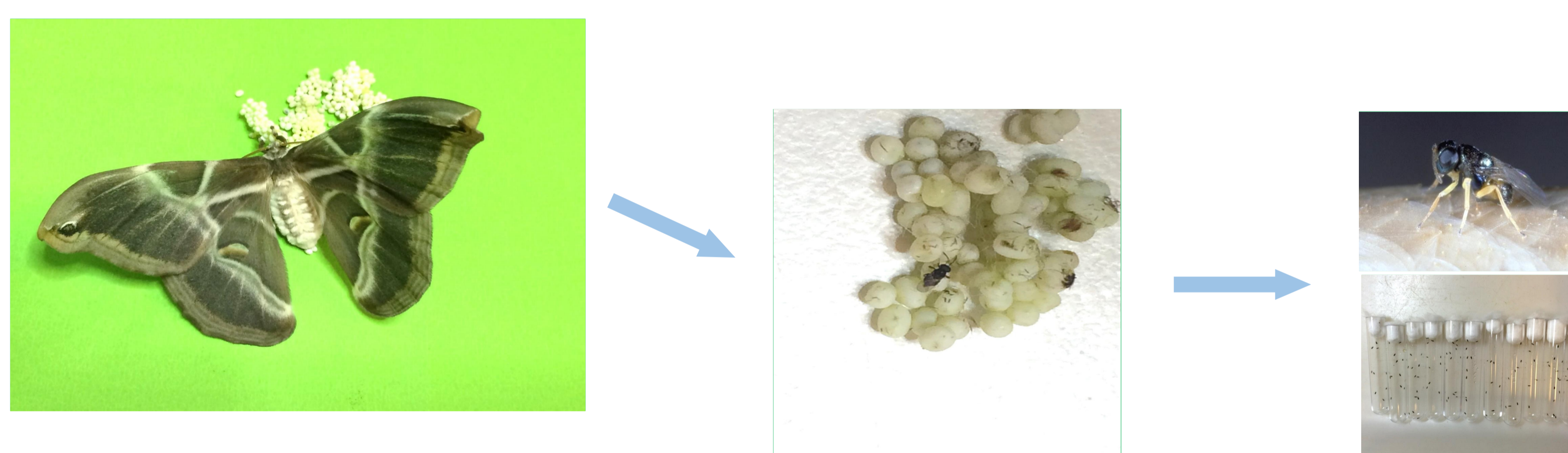
**Introduction:** Pine processionary is the most damaging pest of pine trees in the Mediterranean region. *Ooencyrtus pityocampae* is an egg parasitoid of the pine processionary. Studies were conducted to assess the biological parameters of this parasitoid on the new factitious host *Philosamia ricini* under laboratory conditions (25°C ±1, R H 65±5% and with a L:D 16:8 h photoperiod).

### Material and Methods:

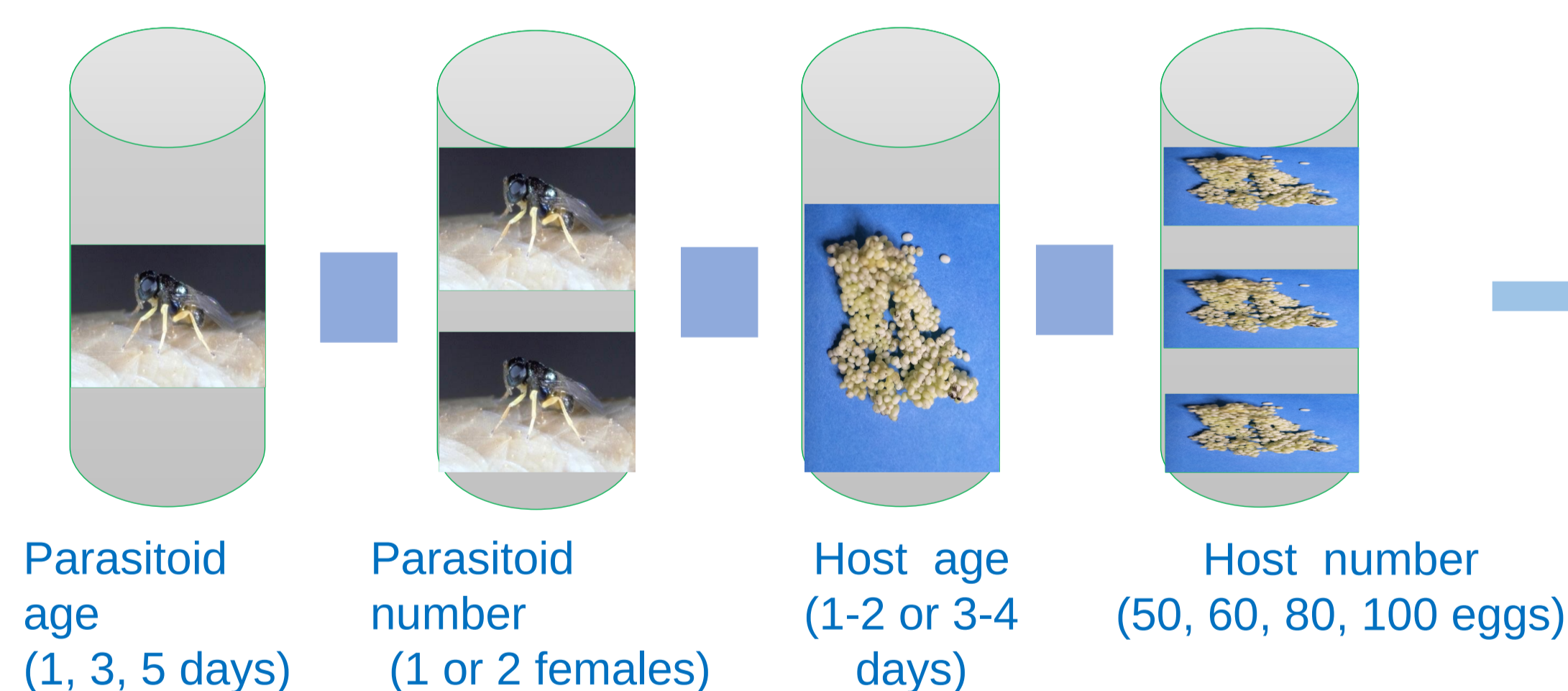
#### a) The host *Philosamia ricini*



#### b) The parasitoid *Ooencyrtus pityocampae*



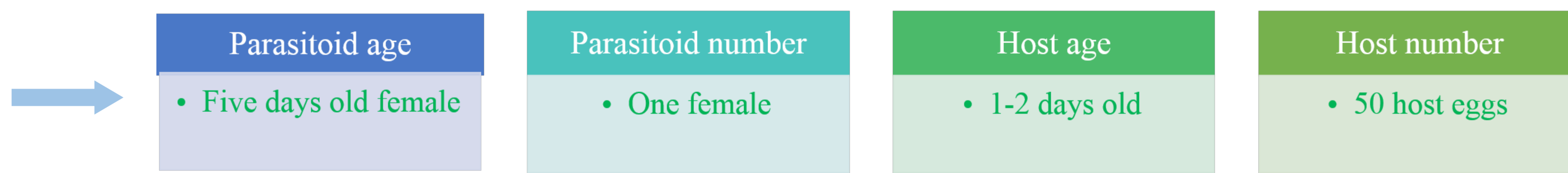
#### c) Experimental procedure



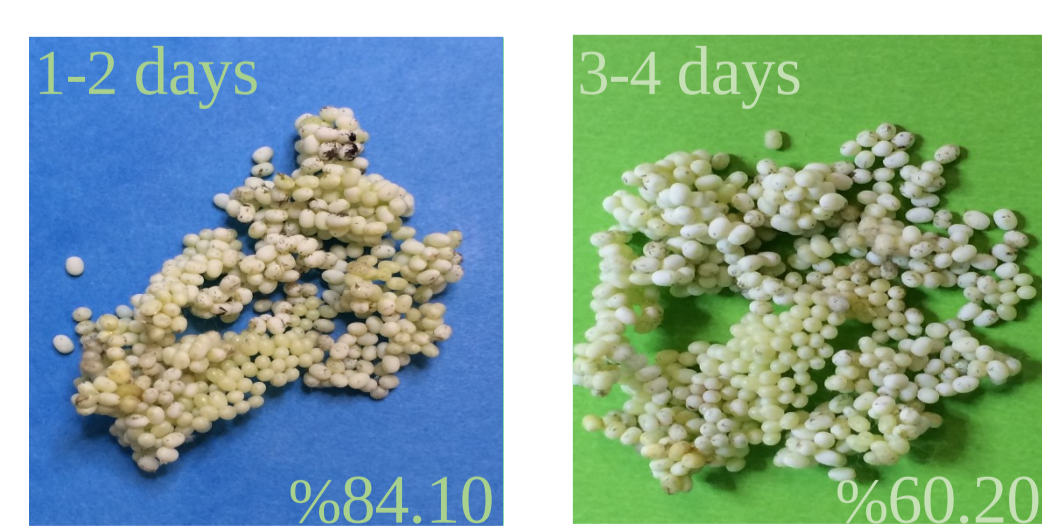
- ✓ Emergence rate
- ✓ Development time
- ✓ Longevity

### Results:

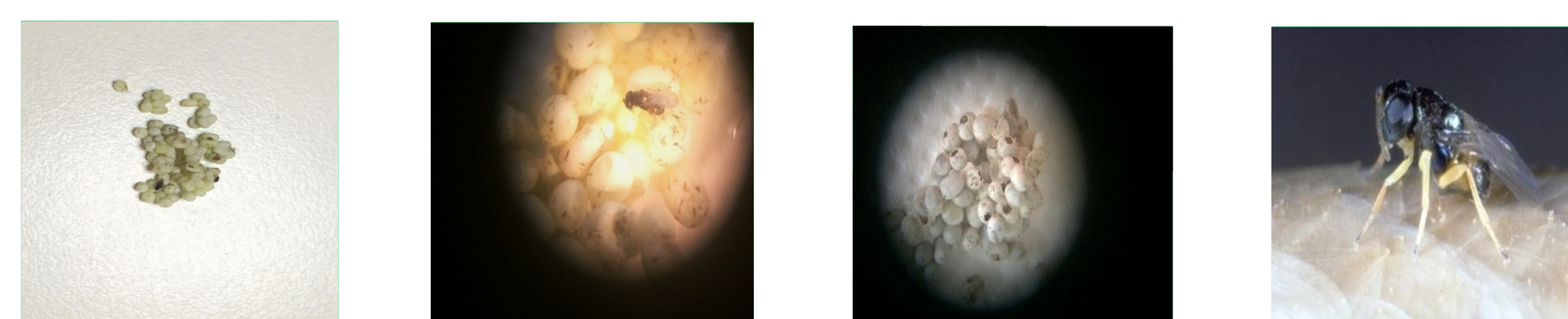
✓ Effective-economic rearing of parasitoid



✓ Emergence rate



✓ Development time



✓ Longevity



23 days

**Conclusion:** Mass rearing of parasitoids is an essential step for biological control programs. Based on the results of this study, *Philosamia ricini* is an appropriate host species for the mass rearing of *Ooencyrtus pityocampae*.