

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF HELIOTHIS SPP.  
 BY MICROPLITIS CROCEIPES

Edited By

J. E. Powell, D. L. Bull, and E. G. King

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PREFACE

J. E. Powell, D. L. Bull, and E. G. King

This monograph is the outcome of a symposium held at the Southeastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Jackson, Mississippi in January 1987. Because of the broad interest in Microplitis croceipes as a biological control agent of Heliothis, we felt that a symposium would be effective for exchanging information and discussing directions for future research. Microplitis was first studied intensely in the late 1960's, and now, more than twenty years later, the wasp is more popular than ever in experimental studies. We hope to increase its effectiveness through improvements in monitoring and augmentation of populations. This monograph was meant to present a summary of past and current research, and is among the first symposia to be dedicated to a single parasitoid. Topics included in this monograph are physiological relationships with the host, behavior, fates and effects of insecticides, genetic characterization, in vitro rearing, and augmentation. The symposium was sponsored by The Southeastern Biological Control Working Group, a multidisciplinary group organized for the following purposes: 1) to promote biological control and emphasize those aspects supportive of integrated pest management; 2) to provide for intra-regional communication of information, including publication of a newsletter; 3) to promote intra-regional, national, and international action concerning research, training of personnel, and coordination of large scale application of biological control; 4) to promote other organizations supportive of biological control; 5) to provide a system for exchange of biological material; 6) to encourage public awareness of the economic and social importance of biological control and the environmental soundness of this approach; 7) to arrange conferences, meetings, and symposia to implement the general objectives of the Group; and 8) to serve as an advisory group to Federal, State, and private agencies regarding biological control research and application on a regional and national scale.