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Oviposition preference of aphidophagous hoverflies toward oviposition site quality: the presence of intra- and interspecific competitor, glucosinolate content and prey species

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Abstract

The selection of oviposition sites by aphidophagous insects is complex because of tritrophic interactions among host plant, aphid and natural enemies. Several factors are known to affect the choice of oviposition site by aphidophagous hoverflies. The decisions of ovipositing females about where to lay their eggs are even more important in insects whose newly hatched offspring have limited dispersal ability, such as most aphidophages. In this study we focused on the oviposition responses of two generalist aphidophagous syrphids (*Eupeodes luniger* and *Episyrphus balteatus*) towards host plant-aphid combinations differing in sinigrin content and the

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