

## Accepted Manuscript

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Lucy Alford, Hossein Kishani Farahani, Jean-Sébastien Pierre, Françoise Burel, Joan van Baaren

PII: S0022-1910(17)30178-6

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinsphys.2017.10.008>

Reference: IP 3715

To appear in: *Journal of Insect Physiology*

Received Date: 17 May 2017

Revised Date: 6 October 2017

Accepted Date: 12 October 2017



Please cite this article as: Alford, L., Farahani, H.K., Pierre, J-S., Burel, F., Baaren, J.v., Why is there no impact of the host species on the cold tolerance of a generalist parasitoid?, *Journal of Insect Physiology* (2017), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinsphys.2017.10.008>

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# Why is there no impact of the host species on the cold tolerance of a generalist parasitoid?

Lucy Alford<sup>1,3</sup>, Hossein Kishani Farahani<sup>2</sup>, Jean-Sébastien Pierre<sup>1</sup>, Françoise Burel<sup>1</sup>, Joan van Baaren<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UMR 6553 ECOBIO, Université de Rennes I, Avenue du Général Leclerc, 35042 Rennes Cedex, France.

<sup>2</sup>Equipe Recherches Agronomiques, Agronutrition, Carbonne, France.

<sup>3</sup>Current address: Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology, College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Davidson Building, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

## Abstract

For generalist parasitoids such as those belonging to the Genus *Aphidius*, the choice of host species can have profound implications for the emerging parasitoid. Host species is known to affect a variety of life history traits. However, the impact of the host on thermal tolerance has never been studied. Physiological thermal tolerance, enabling survival at unfavourable temperatures, is not a fixed trait and may be influenced by a number of external factors including characteristics of the stress, of the individual exposed to the stress, and of the biological and physical environment. As such, the choice of host species is likely to also have implications for the thermal tolerance of the emerging parasitoid. The current study aimed to investigate the effect of cereal aphid host species (*Sitobion avenae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi* and *Metopolophium dirhodum*) on adult thermal tolerance, in addition to sex and size, of the aphid parasitoids *Aphidius avenae*, *Aphidius matricariae* and *Aphidius rhopalosiphi*. Results

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