

Entomophagous insects

National Reference Center for Biological Control

An entomophagous insect is any insect that feeds on another insect, some search for and feed freely and actively on various prey during their lifetime (predators, e.g., ladybugs and lacewings), others develop inside or on their host until they kill them (parasites, e.g., wasps and flies).

All living beings have natural enemies. Entomophagous insects are natural enemies of pests, and in any environment where there are pests there will also be a natural enemy that helps to regulate a population. It is important to know the entomophagous insects that will serve as allies in the biological pest control. It is important to "know to conserve", since not all insects are pests.

The SENASICA exploits these types of insects to control regulated pests that harm some of the most important crops in Mexico: Asian citrus psyllid, pink hibiscus mealybug, citrus fruit fly, fruit flies, red palm mite, yellow sorghum aphid, spotted winged vinegar fly and the ambrosial beetle complex.

The foregoing activities are coordinated through the entomophagous insects department, with the aim of promoting their exploitation for the control of agricultural pests for the benefit of public health and the environment, and to coordinate, manage, and direct technological research and development.

However, the work is extended to other activities such as training and education on reproduction, release and evaluation techniques through workshops, demonstration tours, field practices and lectures, support of teaching and research institutions, analysis of projects for the design, operation and coordination of laboratories and quality analysis of batches of mass-reproduced entomophagous insects of species useful for the control of regulated pests.