Accepted Manuscript

Lady Beetle Oviposition Behavior in Response to the Trophic Environment

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 PII:
 S1049-9644(09)00140-6

 DOI:
 10.1016/j.biocontrol.2009.05.015

 Reference:
 YBCON 2286

To appear in: Biological Control

Received Date:18 December 2008Revised Date:18 May 2009Accepted Date:26 May 2009



Please cite this article as: Seagraves, M.P., Lady Beetle Oviposition Behavior in Response to the Trophic Environment, *Biological Control* (2009), doi: 10.1016/j.biocontrol.2009.05.015

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1	For submission to Biological Control
2	Special Issue: "Trophic Ecology of the Coccinellidae"
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22 **Abstract:** The food available to coccinellid larvae and their exposure to predation is influenced 23 by where they are placed as eggs. This review examines adult distribution and female 24 oviposition strategies which in turn determine the distribution of coccinellid larvae in habitats. 25 Immigration into a habitat can be influenced by visual and olfactory cues related to habitat 26 quality. Adults are retained in a habitat if sufficient food resources are present. The abundance 27 and quality of food in a habitat affects the reproductive output of a female and survival of larvae. 28 Consequently, there is higher retention and oviposition preference for sites with abundant 29 essential prey. Coccinellids also increase reproduction in response to non-prey foods (i.e., 30 pollen), but avoid ovipositing in areas with copious amounts of honeydew. In laboratory studies, 31 many plant-derived chemicals have been demonstrated to be attractants and oviposition stimulants. The need to place eggs in proximity to food for offspring must be weighed against 32 33 the risk of cannibalism and intraguild predation. Lady beetles avoid egg predation by reducing oviposition where other adults are present, ovipositing on plants associated with less exposure or 34 incidence of intraguild predation, and avoiding areas with tracks and frass of con- and 35 36 heterospecific larvae. Indeed, deterrent cues for avoiding predation seem stronger than the 37 positive ones associated with food. An understanding of the resources needed for successful reproduction and larval development in a habitat and the sensory cues that signal these resources, 38 39 and thus elicit oviposition, may enhance our understanding of the underlying mechanisms 40 affecting coccinellid distribution in habitats.

41 Key words: Coccinellidae, reproductive strategy, intraguild predation, cannibalism, honeydew,
42 frass, larval tracks

43 **1. Introduction**

44 Maternal reproductive decisions affect the local distribution of larval coccinellid 45 populations within a habitat, and these decisions are driven in large part by trophic interactions 46 with other organisms. Coccinellid larvae are voracious predators but are much less mobile than 47 the adult stage, thus they often remain in patches selected by their mother. Accordingly, the 48 distributions of food resources critical to larval development (Kindlmann and Dixon, 1993) as 49 well as intraguild predation, including cannibalism, at the selected oviposition site strongly 50 influence the reproductive success of a female (Cottrell and Yeargan, 1998a; Schellhorn and 51 Andow, 1999). Understanding the factors that influence oviposition behavior can be used to 52 design cropping systems that augment densities of coccinellid predators (Seagraves and Yeargan, 53 2006).

Ferran and Dixon (1993) suggested that to fill our knowledge gaps and improve the 54 55 effectiveness of lady beetles we should examine adult behaviors and sensory capabilities of these predators that operate during oviposition. Here, I build upon an earlier review on the topic of 56 57 reproductive decisions (Evans, 2003) by focusing on recent work in the field and by examining 58 the sensory cues that affect the selection of habitat patches, and that elicit or deter oviposition once in habitats. This behavior is not a step-wise hierarchical decision-making process but a 59 60 suite of responses to overlapping sets of stimuli perceived by a gravid female. An understanding 61 of how predators perceive and respond to positive and negative trophic signals, and how these 62 affect their fitness, can greatly improve their utility in biological pest management.

63

64 2. General model of lady beetle reproduction

65 Chandler (1965) suggested that a balance between olfactory and visual cues from prev and 66 infested plants drives the oviposition decisions of predators. However a less structured model 67 (reviewed by Evans, 2003) of how oviposition occurs in lady beetles has emerged with 68 subsequent research. In this scenario, lady beetles fly through a landscape and randomly land on 69 plants. When prey is located, they initiate a local search pattern leading to their aggregation in 70 areas of high prey density. Satiation typically ensues, which reduces their tendency to disperse 71 and leads to a localization of oviposition. Indirect support for this general decision-making framework comes from the numerous observations of aphidophagous coccinellids that oviposit 72 73 in areas of high prey density (Banks, 1956; Dixon, 1959; Wratten, 1973; Ives, 1981; Mills, 74 1982). Obviously this model relies upon work done with coccinellids whose life-history is based 75 around their sternorrhynchan prey. Although there are certainly caveats to this model, it still 76 provides a framework for discussing the current knowledge of the reproductive decisions of 77 coccinellids and likely applies to species that feed on mites and powdery mildew which also tend 78 to be clumped in distribution.

79

80 **3. Habitat selection by females**

Critical to understanding lady beetle reproduction and their use in biological control is how the adults come to be in a particular habitat. Although it is conceivable that a coccinellid may eclose into a habitat with abundant food resources, it is more likely that it must disperse at some point over its adult life when prey becomes depleted (Obata, 1986). Kindlmann and Dixon (1999) show that prey quantity can become scarce during larval development. Individual species likely respond to habitat quality at different scales. For instance, *Adalia bipunctata* (L.), *Hippodamia tredecimpunctata* (L.), and *Hippodamia convergens* Guérin immigrant populations

responded to increased aphid density in maize at the level of the plant, whereas *Coleomegilla maculata* (De Geer) only responded to increasing aphid densities at the plot $(10 \times 10 \text{ m})$ level (Schellhorn and Andow, 2005). Although much of the work reviewed here is not specific to gravid females it offers insight into the processes that ultimately determine the distribution of adults and thus to some extent oviposition at a landscape level.

93

94 **3.1. Immigration.** Information on sensory capabilities of foraging lady beetles challenge the traditional view (Hodek, 1993) that immigration of lady beetles is purely a random process 95 96 which has been often questioned (see Hodek and Honěk, 1996, pg. 102). Cardinale et al. (2006) 97 found immigration by *Coccinella septempunctata* (L.), *Coleomegilla maculata*, and *Harmonia* 98 axyridis (Pallas) into alfalfa patches was not correlated with aphid abundance. Krivan (2008) examined data on Coccinella septempunctata from Honěk (1982) using models that assumed 99 100 immigration to be random, influenced by prey presence, or influenced by both prey and the 101 presence of conspecifics. The model that assumed random immigration best fits the data. Note 102 that the studies cited above focus on a narrow range of species, especially C. septempunctata, 103 that are widely regarded as highly vagile habitat generalists (Hodek and Michaud, 2008). The coccidophagous lady beetle Chilocorous nigritus clearly moves toward sensory stimuli to locate 104 105 habitat patches with prey as opposed to settling in them after a random search (Hattingh and 106 Samways, 1995). Additionally, there are many studies that report the directional movement of 107 adult lady beetles to particular habitats in response to sensory cues, and it seems likely that these 108 cues are influencing non-random habitat selection by coccinellids to some degree (see section 4 109 below). Whether specific lady beetle species use sensory stimuli specifically to direct 110 immigration remains to be investigated or incorporated into any descriptive models.

112	3.2. Emigration. The availability of food and habitat characteristics are often coupled to a
113	coccinellid's propensity for emigration. For example, providing non-prey foods, such as sucrose
114	solution, within farmland can increase the residence time of lady beetles within a patch (Ewert
115	and Chiang, 1966; Evans and Richards, 1997; Van Der Werf et al., 2000). Also, female C.
116	septempunctata and Hippodamia variegata (Goeze) remain longer on fireweed stems with
117	greater aphid numbers (Ives et al., 1993). Coccinella trifasciata (L.) departs alfalfa fields when
118	aphid numbers drop below 0.3 per stem, and the larger Coccinella californica Mannerheim
119	emigrates at an unknown higher threshold (Frazer, 1988). The physical shape of a habitat can
120	also influence the dispersal of a coccinellid. For example, square-shaped cabbage patches
121	retained adult lady beetles longer than "I"-shaped patches of equal area, presumably due to the
122	square shape having a lower perimeter to area ratio. Adults encountered boundaries and edges
123	less frequently in the square plots, thus lowering emigration (Grez and Prado, 2000).
124	Coccinellid individuals sometimes disperse even from high quality habitats (Ives, 1981;
125	Frazer, 1988), which illustrates the innate predisposition of some species toward dispersal. Even
126	in patches of high prey density, some individuals are not retained. This leads to females
127	spreading eggs out over several habitat patches, which may constitute a bet-hedging strategy
128	(Frazer and Raworth, 1985; Evans, 2003). Factors affecting emigration have not been
129	investigated specifically for gravid females. It remains unclear if females oviposit in locations
130	where they are fed enough to produce eggs or if they actively gauge the amount and quality of
131	'nursery' prey (<i>sensu</i> Dixon, 2000). At times coccinellids will settle into a habitat and remain
132	even if sufficient food is not present for oviposition (Honěk, 1978, 1980).

133 Among coccinellid species the degree of habitat specialization affects how individuals 134 disperse from declining prey abundance. As a case in point, Harmonia axyridis emigrated much 135 more quickly than *Mulsantina picta* (Randall) from pines infested with low densities of 136 Eulachnus rileyi (Williams) (Sloggett et al., 2008). Mulsantina picta, which is specialized to live 137 within pine habitats, may persist in patches with lower prey density, whereas *H. axyridis* may be 138 more prone to dispersal from a habitat with dwindling resources. Resources that will retain 139 adults in a habitat differ even among species with similar life histories. Evans and Toler (2007) 140 reported that *Hippodamia convergens* and *Hippodamia quinquesignata* (Kirby) aggregate in 141 alfalfa only in response to increasing aphid density, whereas C. septempunctata responded to 142 increased densities of an alternative prey (Hypera postica larvae) in addition to aphid density. 143 These examples illustrate the challenges inherent in characterizing the mechanisms that drive 144 habitat selection in this heterogeneous group of predators.

145

146 **4. Proximate cues involved in coccinellid foraging.**

147 4.1. Olfactory cues. Olfactory cues are used by some adult lady beetles to direct their movement toward prey (Colburn and Asquith, 1970; Obata, 1986; Nakamuta, 1991; Schaller and 148 149 Nentwig, 2000). Coleomegilla maculata electroantennagram (EAG) tests showed a positive 150 response to aphid semiochemicals and to corn volatiles (Zhu et al., 1999). Zhu and Park (2005) 151 reported that young aphid-infested soybean plants emit more methyl salicylate than uninfested 152 plants, and traps baited with this compound caught significantly more *Coccinella septempunctata* 153 (but not *Harmonia axyridis*) adults than did control traps. *Harmonia axyridis* adults move 154 toward olfactory cues from buckthorn and apple foliage, particularly aphid-infested foliage 155 (Bahlai et al., 2008) and also toward pea aphid colonies (Mondor and Roitberg, 2000; Verheggen

156 et al., 2007). Coccinella septempunctata responds to olfactory cues from Toxoptera aurantii 157 (Boyer), T. aurantti cuticle, and aphid-damaged tea shoots (Han and Chen, 2002). Honeydew 158 collected from T. aurantii evokes a particularly strong EAG response from C. septempunctata 159 (Han and Chen, 2002). In contrast, Scaller and Nentwig (2000) found that C. septempunctata 160 adults were not attracted to the odor of Acyrthosiphon pisum (Harris) honeydew. Stethorus 161 punctum picipes (Casey) is attracted to the synthetic plant compounds methyl salicylate, (Z)-3-162 hexenvl acetate, cis-3-hexen-1-ol, and benzaldehvde, which are associated with herbivore damaged plants (James, 2003; James and Price, 2004; James 2005). 163 164 Alarm pheromones of prey are another set of proximate cues attractive to some 165 coccinellids. The aphid alarm pheromone (E)-β-Farnesene (EβF) is attractive to A. bipunctata 166 (Hemptinne et al., 2000c; Francis et al., 2004), Hippodamia convergens (Acar et al., 2001), C. 167 septempunctata (Nakamuta, 1991; Al Abassi et al., 2000), and Harmonia axyridis (Verheggen et 168 al., 2007; but also see Mondor and Roitberg, 2000). The response to EBF is inhibited by (-)-Bcaryophyllene, a chemical present in plants (as is $E\beta F$); the detection of caryophyllene along 169 170 with EßF indicates a plant (rather than aphid) source of the latter semiochemical (Dawson et al., 1984; Al Abassi et al., 2000). 171

Female adult *Diomus* sp. and *Exochomus* sp. spend more time searching cassava leaves that were recently infested with mealybugs. However, it is not clear if these lady beetles use a mealybug-associated cue to guide their immigration into different patches or when searching for oviposition sites (van den Meiracker et al., 1990). *Coccinella septempunctata* is attracted to volatiles from infested or previously infested barley plants, but not to uninfested plants or to undisturbed *Rhopalosiphum padi* (L.) (Ninkovic et al., 2001). Lentz et al. (2004) found that *Stethorus punctillum* Weise flew more readily toward beans and cucumbers infested with

Tetranychus urticae Koch than toward uninfested plants, and more readily toward infested plantsthan toward mites and plants which were kept separate.

181 Mated females of Cycloneda sanguinea (L.) use a hierarchy of olfactory cues when 182 choosing foraging patches (Sarmento et al., 2007). They preferentially move toward volatiles of 183 tomatoes infested with the non-essential prey, Tetranychus evansi Baker & Pritchard, versus 184 clean air, and toward volatiles of plants infested with essential prey, Macrosiphum euphorbiae 185 (Thomas), versus non-essential prev T. evansi (Sarmento et al., 2007). These beetles also use olfactory cues to avoid predation risk by moving toward volatiles of plants with M. euphorbiae 186 187 or T. evansi versus plants with prey and the coccinellid egg predator, Eriopis connexa (Germar). 188 Thus, this lady beetle uses volatile olfactory cues to discern between patches based both on prey 189 quality and on risk of predation, and chooses the site with the higher prey quality but not at the 190 cost of selecting an oviposition site associated with a predator (Sarmento et al., 2007).

191

4.2. Visual cues. Vision is used by adult coccinellids to locate prey within a patch
(Nakamuta, 1984; Obata, 1986; Harmon et al., 1998). Just as with olfaction it seems reasonable
to examine whether adult lady beetles use this sense in locating high quality patches as sites for
reproduction.

4.2.1. Color. Lorenzetti et al. (1997) found more adult coccinellids on stressed corn
plants and suggested that plant color was responsible for this trend. Stressed plants tend to be
more yellow than mature, healthy foliage, and thus color could indicate the presence of aphids.
Several studies show higher capture of particular coccinellids (e.g., *Coleomegilla maculata* and *Coccinella septempunctata*) on yellow-colored adhesive traps, but other species show no

201	preference among colors (e.g., Hippodamia convergens and Hippodamia parenthesis [Say])
202	(Capinera and Walmsley, 1978; Maredia et al., 1992; Udayagiri et al., 1997).
203	In a cage setting, naïve female Harmonia axyridis preferred to visit and spend time on
204	yellow pillars versus green ones (Mondor and Warren, 2000). This response to yellow is not
205	fixed, since <i>H. axyridis</i> spent more time on pillars of a particular color when this color was
206	reinforced with food during conditioning (Mondor and Warren, 2000). Adalia bipunctata
207	displayed a preference for ovipositing on surfaces of particular colors in paired choice tests
208	(Iperti and Prudent, 1986). The reported order of preference was: red > green > yellow > blue.
209	These authors suggest that red surfaces may be most preferred, since sometimes aphid-damaged
210	foliage turns this color (e.g., apple foliage infested with Dysaphis sp.).
211	4.2.2. Pattern recognition. Harmonia axyridis adults in I-tube assays move toward
212	vertical or horizontal bars and buckthorn foliage preferentially over blank space (Bahlai et al.,
213	2008). An arboreal species that spends a portion of the year on bamboo, Chilocorus nigritus (F.),
214	moved toward a horizon with a simulated tree more than toward a flat horizon, vertical over
215	horizontal stripes, vertical stripes over a simulated tree, paintings of citrus leaves over squares,
216	and ovate leaves over compound bipinnate leaves (Hattingh and Samways, 1995). These visual
217	preferences help direct C. nigritus to habitats where their preferred prey are found (i.e., in trees
218	with ovate leaves). This study also demonstrated that this beetle habituates to short-range cues
219	(e.g., image of a scale insect) at a faster rate than long-range cues, as they are encountered more
220	frequently. A long duration of response to an infrequently encountered long-range cue is needed
221	since reinforcement is not immediate, whereas short-range cues will frequently be accompanied
222	by reinforcement (e.g., contact with prey item) very soon after perceiving the cue.

5. The role of food in reproduction.

Food influences lady beetle reproduction in at least two general ways. Egg production requires nutritional intake beyond a maintenance level, and thus high quality food is important for supporting reproductive capacity. Food is also important for a female's offspring, and foodbased cues that indicate the quantity or quality of a food item directly influence a female's decision to oviposit.

230

231 5.1. Prey abundance. Some aphidophagous lady beetles assess the prey density within a 232 patch, and require a minimum prey density before they will oviposit in an area. Honěk (1978) 233 reported that post-diapause ovariole maturation in *Coccinella septempunctata* subpopulations varied greatly within a landscape, and he noted that this variation was positively correlated with 234 235 local aphid densities. *Coccinella septempunctata* requires approximately 10 aphids per m² of land area to settle into a habitat and one aphid per 200-400 cm² of leaf area (depending on the 236 crop) before it will mature eggs in a habitat (Honěk, 1980). This minimum number of aphids is 237 likely related to the minimum number of aphid prey required by 1st instars for development. 238 239 Johki et al. (1988) reported that the densities of adult coccinellids declined once Aphis citricola van der Goot and *Toxoptera odinae* van der Goot on the woody ornamental shrub *Pittosporum* 240 241 *tobira* (Thunberg) were reduced below a mean of 50 nymphs per colony. This relationship was 242 strongest among smaller lady beetles such as *Scymnus posticalis* Sicard (but also see Sloggett et 243 al., 2008). The arboreal Aphidecta obliterata (L.) increased oviposition in response to increasing 244 aphid densities (Oliver et al., 2006). When a habitat reaches a certain minimum prey density that 245 allows survival and development of first instars an 'oviposition window' opens (Kindlmann and 246 Dixon, 1993). To maximize fitness females should lay eggs in the oviposition window, which

closes when larval tracks are detected (see section 7.2) (Kindlmann and Dixon, 1993). In this
scenario, younger prey colonies are preferable for oviposition in that they are unlikely to collapse
during larval development, and also present less risk from conspecific and heterospecific
predators.

5.2. Prey quality.

252 5.2.1. Intraspecific variability in prey. Prey change in their suitability as they age, and so it 253 is expected that coccinellids can distinguish prev of a preferred age (Hodek and Honěk, 2009; this issue). When offered young aphids, Acyrthosiphon pisum, on young leaves versus old aphids 254 255 on old leaves, C. septempunctata preferentially oviposits near the young ones (Hemptinne et al., 256 1993; but also see Hemptinne et al., 2000b). When a mix of aphid instars was offered on either young or old leaves, no difference in oviposition occurred, which suggests that females are 257 258 discerning the quality of prey and not using a plant-based cue indicative of host plant age. Adalia *bipunctata* 1st instars require two small (1st-3rd instar) aphids, *Drepanosiphum platanoides* 259 260 (Schrank), per day for maximum survival (Dixon, 1970). First instars are not capable of preving 261 on late-instar and adult aphids; they have a specific requirement for small prey, another reason 262 for females to oviposit near an aphid colony early in its development. Different aphid morphs can also have a substantial effect on the number of eggs produced by a coccinellid (Wipperfürth 263 et al., 1987). 264

The same type of oviposition preference is demonstrated by coccidophages. *Chilocorus nigritus* laid significantly more eggs when exposed to scale colonies of mixed age than to any one particular stage regardless of the density (Ponsonby and Copland, 2007). *Chilocorus nigritus* avoids red scale, *Aonidiella aurantii* Makell, infestations that are so large (>60 scales per cm²) that they cause the rapid decline of the host plant (Erichsen et al., 1991).

270 A prey species' host plant also can affect its suitability as food, and subsequently affect 271 lady beetle reproduction (Hodek and Honěk, 2009; this issue). Francis et al. (2001) 272 demonstrated that A. bipunctata fed Myzus persicae (Sulzer) from plants with no or low levels of 273 glucosinolates had higher fitness (as measured by fecundity and egg viability) than those fed M. 274 *persicae* from plants with high levels of glucosinolates. There are other examples of lady beetle 275 development and reproduction being adversely affected when fed aphids reared on resistant 276 plants (Rice and Wilde, 1989; Martos et al., 1992). Similar effects have been documented in 277 coccinellids that feed on mealybugs and whiteflies reared on resistant plants or different plant 278 species (Le Rü and Mitsipa, 2000; Al-Zyoud et al., 2005). It is unknown if gravid lady beetles 279 are able to discern between prey colonies of the same species but on different host plants. This 280 may be of interest to determine how sophisticated coccinellids are at maximizing fitness and 281 could be of applied consequence in diverse polyculture plantings.

282

283 5.2.2. Interspecific differences in prey. Even among lady beetles that feed mostly on 284 aphids, not all prey are equally suitable for reproduction (Blackman, 1967; Omkar and Mishra, 285 2005; Cabral et al., 2006). In Belgium, H. axyridis is frequently found feeding on Microlophium carnosum (Buckton) from nettle compared with other common species in the landscape 286 (Alhmedi et al., 2007). Microlophium carnosum is preferred by H. axyridis over Acyrthosiphon 287 288 *pisum* and *Sitobion avenae* (F.), and females preferentially oviposit near this prey species 289 (Alhmedi et al., 2008). However, in no-choice tests Adalia bipunctata oviposited near 290 marginally suitable, toxic, and high quality aphid species indiscriminately (Fréchette et al., 291 2006). This result highlights that prey quality should be viewed in the context of the different 292 prey items and their abundance in a landscape. The results of Almedi et al. (2007; 2008)

strongly suggest that when preferred prey are present in adequate numbers that females lay eggs
accordingly. Gravid females refrain from ovipositing (at least for a few hours) the entire egg
clutch if conditions are unfavorable (Evans and Dixon, 1986).

296 Aggregation and reproduction of coccinellids to a specific prey differs among species. In 297 alfalfa where the densities of aphids and *Hypera postica* (Gyllenhal) (Col.: Curculionidae) larvae 298 were manipulated, only Coccinella septempunctata aggregated to high densities of H. postica 299 larvae when aphid densities were low (other species tested were *Hippodamia convergens* and 300 Hippodamia quinquesignata [Kirby]; Evans and Toler, 2007). Coccinella septempunctata. 301 Coccinella transversalis (F.), Coccinella transversoguttata Faldermann, and Harmonia axyridis 302 reduce or cease their reproductive output when aphids are removed from their diets (Evans et al., 303 1999; Evans, 2000; Evans and Gunther, 2005). However, feeding on alternative prey such as 304 Hypera postica larvae and sugar or nectar generally improves reproduction in coccinellids over 305 single-prey diets (Evans, 2009; Lundgren, 2009; this issue).

306

307 **5.3.** Non-prey foods and reproduction. Coccinellids, such as *Coleomegilla maculata*, 308 Harmonia axyridis, and Hippodamia tredecimpunctata tibialis (Say), respond to corn anthesis by 309 increasing oviposition (Wright and Laing, 1980; Cottrell and Yeargan, 1998b; Lundgren et al., 310 2004). Despite having similar adult densities, more *C. maculata* eggs occur on plants in plots 311 undergoing pollen shed than on same-age plants that were detasseled prior to anthesis (Cottrell 312 and Yeargan, 1998b). Lundgren et al. (2004) also reported that C. maculata egg density 313 increases during anthesis, and although adults and larvae frequently consumed corn pollen, adult 314 densities did not increase significantly from pre-anthesis densities. Harmonia axyridis and 315 *Hippodamia convergens* oviposit more during anthesis, but the causal factor for this increase in

reproduction could be related to prey availability (Wright and Laing, 1980), although *Harmonia axyridis* larvae also rely on corn pollen at this point in the season (Lundgren et al., 2004). Pollen
and sugar are key food-resources for lady beetles emerging from diapause in the spring but alone
do not allow for egg production (Hemptinne and Desprets, 1986; Lundgren, 2009, this issue)
with *C. maculata* being an exception (Lundgren and Wiedenmann 2004).
Under some circumstances, honeydew is an arrestant of coccinellid foraging as it often
indicates prev presence (Carter and Dixon, 1984; Ide et al. 2007). But some coccinellids avoid

ovipositing near sticky substances, possibly because a large amount of honeydew is often
associated with declining colonies (Iperti and Prudent, 1986; Johki et al. 1988). However, small
amounts of honeydew along with aphid odors can elicit oviposition of gravid females even when
aphids are absent (Evans and Dixon, 1986).

327

328 6. Non-food cues and preferences

329 Food is not the only consideration for reproductive females, and sometimes coccinellids 330 will lay eggs entirely in the absence of food for their offspring (described in Banks, 1956; Evans 331 and Dixon, 1986). Iperti (1965) noted that in similar laboratory conditions, coccinellids 332 oviposited on different sites within the rearing cages. He hypothesized that this was due to 333 coccinellids expressing differing degrees of geotropism, phototropism, hygrotropism and 334 thigmotactism. Adalia bipunctata prefers to oviposit on curved surfaces over flat ones and 335 smooth surfaces rather than those covered by filter paper (Iperti and Prudent, 1986). Several 336 reports indicate that negative geotaxis leads to eggs being placed toward the top of plants and 337 cages (Ewert and Chiang, 1966; Iperti and Quilici, 1986). Propylea quatuordecimpunctata (L.) 338 displays negative phototaxis and oviposits in shaded areas of an enclosure (Iperti and Quilici,

1986). It may be that studies such as these reveal more about where coccinellids reside and
consequently oviposit than their preferences for oviposition sites. Still they are useful indicators
of how adults distribute themselves and narrow down where oviposition is likely to occur within
a habitat.

343 **6.1. Plant-based cues.** Many mass-produced lady beetles will not oviposit in empty 344 enclosures, but will oviposit in larger cages containing a small twig (Smirnoff, 1958). Coccinella septempunctata prefers to oviposit on corrugated cardboard with congealed 33% strawberry 345 346 gelatin (Jello®) (Shands et al., 1970). Adalia bipunctata, C. transversoguttata, Cycloneda 347 munda (Say), and Coleomegilla maculata oviposit more often on surfaces treated with alcohol 348 extracts of Juniperus virginiana (L.) wood (Boldyrev et al., 1969). When further examined, the extracts that stimulate oviposition in C. maculata are high-molecular weight polyphenols such as 349 350 O-coumaric, salicylic and protocatechuic acids, fluorescein, tannin, and widdrol (Smith et al., 351 1973). Ethanol extracts from teak, cinnamon, clove, guaiacol, and resorcinol also stimulate oviposition by C. maculata (Smith and Williams, 1976). These extracts not only increased 352 incidence of oviposition at a particular location but also the total number of eggs per female. 353 354 Iperti and Prudent (1986) reported that A. bipunctata oviposited more on surfaces treated with extracts of cypress and fennel than on untreated surfaces. A. bipunctata and Coccinella 355 356 septempunctata prefer to oviposit on barberry (Berberis vulgaris (L.) twigs more than on those 357 of apple or other shrubs with similar physical characteristics to barberry (Shah, 1983). 358 Additionally, Prunus cerasus (L.) twigs sprayed with water extracts of barberry leaves or twigs 359 had more eggs laid on them than did untreated branches. In line with this oviposition behavior, 360 C. septempunctata moves toward the smell of chopped barberry leaves and flower heads of

361 *Tripleurospermum inodoratum* (L.) (Asteraceae) that are devoid of prey (Schaller and Nentwig,
362 2000).

363 It is hard to determine if these oviposition responses to plant-based chemicals have any role 364 in egg laying decisions outside of laboratory conditions. These studies do hint at a role of 365 chemosensation in oviposition decisions and these chemicals could have utility in predator 366 rearing or manipulating populations in a field setting.

367

6.2. Avoidance of cannibalism and intraguild predation. Egg cannibalism and predation
by other lady beetle species are common sources of mortality for coccinellid eggs (Mills, 1982;
Wright and Laing, 1982; Agarwala and Dixon, 1992; Hodek and Honěk, 1996; Hironori and
Katsuhiro, 1997; Lucas, 2005; Snyder, 2009; Weber and Lundgren, 2009, this issue). Thus
selection should favor oviposition strategies that reduce the impact of these trophic factors.

374 6.2.1. Coleomegilla maculata as a case study. The oviposition behavior of Coleomegilla maculata has been well studied, and it illustrates several reproductive strategies employed by 375 376 coccinellids to minimize egg predation. On plants with high numbers of aphids and predators, 377 placing eggs away from prey colonies can increase egg survival in comparison to eggs laid near 378 the prey (Coderre et al., 1987; Schellhorn and Andow, 1999). Coleomegilla maculata egg 379 clutches are most often found on the bottom half of corn plants (Coderre et al., 1987; Schellhorn 380 and Andow, 1999). This differs from other coccinellids commonly found in corn that oviposit 381 higher on the plant where prey is more abundant (Hodek and Honěk, 1996; Schellhorn and 382 Andow, 1999). This oviposition behavior may not have evolved strictly as a strategy to avoid 383 egg predation but clearly this is benefit derived from it.

384 Host plants can have a dramatic effect on the survival of coccinellid eggs, and C. maculata 385 and other species preferentially lay eggs on plants that offer protection from predation. Obrycki 386 and Tauber (1985) reported that C. maculata and possibly Hippodamia convergens oviposit most 387 often on potato hybrids (Solanum tuberosum x S. berthaultii) with patches of dense glandular 388 trichomes, even though adult and immature coccinellids were found most often on the hybrids 389 with fewer leaf hairs (Obrycki and Tauber, 1985). Cottrell and Yeargan (1998a) reported that 390 more C. maculata eggs were found on the weed Acalypha ostryifolia Ridell than on the crop in 391 cornfields. Subsequent screenings revealed that many cultivated and weedy species (notably 392 velvetleaf, Abutilon theophrasti Medicus, and tomato, Lycopersicon esculentum [Mill.]) with 393 glandular trichomes are preferred oviposition plants for C. maculata (Griffin and Yeargan, 394 2002a; Seagraves and Yeargan, 2006), even though adults prefer to spend their time on glabrous 395 plants (Staley and Yeargan, 2005). Prey numbers do not affect oviposition by C. maculata on these plant surfaces (Griffin and Yeargan, 2002b). Gravid females do not use long-distance cues 396 to find these plants, but evaluate their suitability based on proximate cues (Griffin and Yeargan, 397 398 2002a).

399 It appears that a driving force behind C. maculata's preference for ovipositing on 400 pubescent plants is that eggs on these plants experience reduced predation. A great deal of 401 predation on C. maculata eggs comes from older larvae and adult conspecifics (Cottrell and 402 Yeargan, 1998a; b). Pubescent plant surfaces are difficult for larvae and adults to walk on due to 403 the physical texture of the leaves (Elsey, 1974; Belcher and Thurston, 1982; Shah, 1982; 404 Obrycki, 1986). Coleomegilla maculata eggs laid on pubescent Acalypha ostryifolia and 405 Abutilon theophrasti experience a 55% reduction in egg cannibalism compared to those eggs laid 406 on corn (over 24 h) (Cottrell and Yeargan, 1998a; Griffin and Yeargan, 2002b). Neonate larvae

from pubescent plants disperse by falling to the ground and walking to neighboring crop plants(Cottrell and Yeargan, 1999; Seagraves and Yeargan, 2006).

409

410 6.2.2. Ants. Ants that tend aphids frequently have adverse effects on natural enemies, 411 including lady beetles (Majerus et al., 2007). Lady beetles are attacked by ants at ant-tended 412 colonies and preferentially forage on non-tended aphids (Way, 1963; Styrsky and Eubanks, 413 2007). Although it has not been tested it is likely that a female's fitness would suffer if eggs were laid near ant-tended aphids if other options were available. Banks (1962) reported that 414 415 within 48 h of their attachment, ants had removed the eggs of Adalia bipunctata from bean plants 416 where Aphis fabae Scolpoli resided. The myrmecophilous coccinellid, Coccinella magnifica 417 Redtenbacher, as an adult is found in close association with ant-tended aphid colonies. 418 However, C. magnifica larvae are frequently attacked at ant-tended aphid colonies (albeit less 419 frequently than C. septempunctata larvae) and ovipositing females seem to discern between 420 tended and untended aphid colonies, and preferentially oviposit near ant-free aphids (Sloggett 421 and Majerus, 2003).

422 6.2.3. Oviposition behaviors that indirectly reduce predation. Sakuratani & Nakamura 423 (1997) documented that in the colder season Coccinella septempunctata oviposits on the underside of non-plant materials with high thermal conductivity even when aphids are present on 424 425 plants. Ferran et al. (1989) found most eggs of C. septempunctata on soil lumps, stones, and 426 wild plants instead of on wheat plants, where most other life stages were found. Similarly, Lövei 427 and Radwan (1988) reported that the location of coccinellid eggs in an orchard shifted as the 428 season became warmer. In this case, twigs and branches were preferred sites early in the season, 429 and the undersides of leaves were preferred later in the season. These oviposition behaviors are

- advantageous in that they shorten development time and thereby reduce the chance of eggpredation.
- 432

433 **7. Deterrent cues from conspecific and intraguild predators.**

434 Coccinellids avoid oviposition when they come in contact with predators or evidence of 435 their presence (Hemptinne et al., 1992; Merlin et al., 1996). This phenomenon is interpreted as a 436 strategy to avoid threats to the survival of their offspring, including competition and predation (e.g., intraguild predation and cannibalism). The signals used by coccinellids to identify 437 438 predators may originate from actual contact, or through indicators of a predator's presence (e.g., 439 larval tracks). Each coccinellid species produces specific (or a mixture of) alkanes that 440 constitute a chemical signature that is used for defense and mate recognition (Hemptinne and 441 Dixon, 2000; Magro et al., 2007). These chemicals emanate from all stages and affect 442 conspecifics, heterospecific coccinellids, other predators, and even parasitoids (Nakashima et al., 443 2004; Magro et al., 2007; Chauhan and Weber, 2008; Rutledge et al., 2008). Many of the 444 responses to these hydrocarbon tracks have been interpreted as behaviors to avoid food 445 competition and predation. This avoidance is practiced by the potential victim (Nakashima et al., 2004; Rutledge et al., 2008) but also by the ovipositing mother of a potential victim. This 446 latter type is reviewed below (section 7.2). 447

448

449 **7.1. Deterrence by presence of adult predators.** Gravid lady beetles in laboratory
450 experiments oviposit less when in the presence of other lady beetles. *Adalia bipunctata* females
451 lay fewer eggs when in the presence of female *Harmonia axyridis* or *C. septempunctata* (Kajita
452 et al., 2006). Aspects of the study design (i.e., daily dish changes) suggest that direct contact

453 among individuals caused the observed effect, but olfactory cues can not be ruled out. However, 454 Doumbia et al. (1998) reported that A. bipunctata oviposition was undeterred when they were 455 reared in Petri dishes that formerly contained conspecific adults (that would have left chemical) 456 cues). Thus, oviposition deterrence by conspecific adults in A. bipunctata does not seem to be 457 mediated by chemical cues, although there is evidence that adults use olfactory cues to detect 458 conspecifics (Al Abassi et al., 1998; Schaller and Nentwig, 2000). Harmonia axyridis females 459 laid fewer eggs when grouped with conspecifics than when alone or grouped with *Sasajiscymnus* tsugae (Sasaji and McClure) or Laricobius nigrinus Fender (Coleoptera: Derodontidae) (Flowers 460 461 et al., 2005). Females of *Menochilus sexmaculatus* laid fewer eggs in the presence of an 462 immobilized conspecific adult female or larva (Agarwala et al., 2003b). Immobilized Coccinella 463 transversalis females or larvae also reduced oviposition, but immobilized adult or larval Scymnus pyrocheilus Mulsant or an Ischiodon scutellaris (F.) (Diptera: Syrphidae) maggot didn't 464 465 affect oviposition (Agarwala et al., 2003b). Coccinella undecimpunctata (L.) fed ad libitum does 466 not oviposit in the presence of adult H. axyridis, but the presence of conspecifics does not inhibit 467 oviposition (Soares and Serpa, 2006). Coccinella septempunctata doesn't oviposit in the presence of a conspecific adult female, but will oviposit near eggs and 2nd instars (Hemptinne et 468 469 al., 1993).

The work reported on oviposition deterrence by the presence of con- and heterospecific adults has been conducted in artificial conditions. It remains to be determined how important this behavior would be in agricultural or natural systems. However these do have important bearing on the design of appropriate mass rearing methods and possibly the use of lady beetles in augmentation biological control.

475

476 7.2. Oviposition deterrent chemicals in tracks and frass. Numerous coccinellids can 477 detect oviposition-deterring semiochemicals (ODS) in the tracks of conspecific larvae, and adjust 478 their behavior accordingly (Růžička, 1997; Doumbia et al., 1998; Růžička, 2001a; 2001b; 2003; 479 2006; Oliver et al., 2006; Magro et al., 2007; Michaud and Jyoti, 2007) (Table 1). Oviposition 480 behavior may change in response to ODS of heterospecific larvae as well, but this is less 481 common (Table 1). These documented effects very compelling but it must be recognized that 482 they have all been generated in the laboratory where conditions (i.e., substrate, rate of degradation) are much different than those that would occur in the field. Our ability to gain 483 484 insight into chemical oviposition deterrents will be enhanced as active components and the organisms and specific stages that emit them are identified. This information will allow for 485 elegant manipulations in the laboratory and attempts to document these effects in more 486 487 naturalistic settings.

The greater number of records of conspecific (compared to heterospecific) ODS may be 488 partially explained by the greater relative importance of cannibalism to the reproductive success 489 of the female compared to non-cannibalism IGP. Coccinellid eggs are chemically defended 490 491 against predation by other coccinellids, but not from cannibalism (Agarwala and Dixon, 1992; 492 Hemptinne et al., 2000a; Hemptinne et al., 2000d; Pervez and Gupta, 2004). Another reason that 493 oviposition deterrence is more common in conspecific than heterospecific larval tracks is that in 494 some laboratory tests the assayed female and heterospecific larvae are allopatric; thus the species 495 have no common evolutionary history of coexistence. However, laboratory tests using allopatric 496 species may provide insight into which behaviors are novel versus coevolved.

When sympatric species are examined there still tends to be stronger deterrence fromconspecifics, but significant effects from the tracks of heterospecific larvae have been

documented. For example, *Coleomegilla maculata* prefers to consume conspecific eggs over *Hippodamia convergens* eggs in choice tests (Michaud and Jyoti, 2007). Even though *C*. *maculata* prefers to consume conspecific eggs, it still poses a predation risk to *H. convergens*eggs, and females of the latter species respond by reducing oviposition in the presence of larvae
of the former species (Michaud and Jyoti, 2007).

504 The ability of adult tracks to deter oviposition is reported less frequently than the deterrent 505 properties of larval tracks, but evidence suggests that tracks from adults may influence oviposition. Propylea dissecta (Mulsant) was deterred by conspecific adult tracks and this effect 506 lasted at least 10 d (Mishra and Omkar, 2006). This deterrence was due to adult tracks (likely 507 508 produced by the tarsi) as the study controlled for feces. At this date only Mishra and Omkar 509 (2006) have reported an effect of adult tracks, while Doumbia et al. (1998) reported a lack of 510 effect with A. bipunctata. Larval tracks may be more deterrent than those of adults as larvae are 511 more frequent consumers of coccinellid eggs than adults (Cottrell and Yeargan 1998a, b). However this difference in the frequency of effect may simply reflect that larvae leave more of a 512 513 chemical signal than adults, as they use their anal disc to adhere to surfaces. This latter 514 explanation has merit as adult lady beetles readily consume eggs of both conspecific and 515 heterospecific coccinellids (Cottrell 2005). It has been shown that many eggs are chemically 516 defended from predation by heterospecific coccinellids (Agarwala and Dixon, 1992; Hemptinne 517 et al., 2000a). Interestingly adults, particularly *H. axyridis*, are not deterred from consuming 518 heterospecific coccinellid eggs.

7.2.1. Physiology of ODS. The ODS of *A. bipunctata* larvae originate from the anal disc on
the tenth abdominal segment (Laubertie et al., 2006). The chemical or combination of chemicals
responsible for deterrence are chloroform-soluble and made up of at least 40 different

522 hydrocarbons, mainly alkanes (Hemptinne et al., 2001). The chemical properties of ODS affect 523 their ability to spread, adhere to plant surfaces, and their persistence (up to 30 d, see below). 524 Chloroform extracts of *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* (F.) deter oviposition by conspecifics (Klewer 525 et al., 2007). Klewer et al. (2007) elucidated that (Z)-pentacos-12-ene is the key, but not sole, 526 chemical responsible for deterring oviposition. Receptors on the maxillary palpi of *Cycloneda* 527 limbifer Casey and Ceratomegilla undecimnotata Schneider perceive ODS; individuals whose 528 palpi are ablated are not deterred from ODS-marked surfaces (Růžička, 2003). 529 The longevity of ovipositional deterrence by ODS in larval tracks varies among lady 530 beetles. Conspecific larval tracks of Coccinella septempunctata deterred oviposition for less than 531 24 h, whereas those of Semiadalia undecimnotata (Schneider), A. bipunctata, and Cycloneda 532 *limbifer* were active on conspecific females for at least 5, 10, and 30 d, respectively (Hemptinne 533 et al., 2001; Růžička, 2002). It is interesting to note that the parasitoid Apidius ervi Haliday is 534 dettered from foraging for only 24 h by tracks of adult and larval C. septempunctata (Nakashima et al., 2004). The interspecific variation in the reported duration of deterrence by ODS is likely 535 536 an artifact that the reported experiments used different amounts of larvae, duration of exposure, 537 and age of tracks at start of assay. If this amount of variation in the longevity holds up after standardized experiments this would suggest that there is a difference in the persistence of the 538 539 active components among different species' tracks, or that species detect different compounds 540 that vary in their rate of breakdown.

7.2.2. Density dependence and ODS. Naturally, the level of deterrence produced by ODS
of coccinellids is density dependent (Doumbia et al., 1998; Oliver et al., 2006). For example, in *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulsant, which only oviposits in close association with mealybug
ovisacs, the level of oviposition deterrence was positively correlated with the density of

conspecific larvae (Hemptinne et al., 1993). The strength of density dependent deterrence can
decrease as a female beetle ages: *A. bipunctata* females that had oviposited for at least 30 d were
less deterred by conspecific larval tracks than females that had laid eggs for fewer than 10 d
(Fréchette et al., 2004). During long assays, fewer naïve *A. bipunctata* females oviposited than
females that were exposed to conspecific tracks continuously from eclosion (Fréchette et al.,
2004).

7.2.3. Frass. An indication of the presence of competitors is their frass. Propylea japonica 551 (Thunberg) oviposition is deterred by the water extracts of both conspecific and H. axvridis 552 553 larval frass (Agarwala et al., 2003a). However, H. axyridis oviposition was deterred by the water 554 extract of conspecific larval frass, but not the extract of *P. japonica* frass (Agarwala et al., 2003a). Propylea japonica displays greater discretion in its oviposition, perhaps because it is less 555 556 competitive in intraguild interactions with other lady beetles. For both species the strength of 557 deterrence decreased as the frass aged. Coccinellid frass in the form of dry cylindrical pellets is likely to fall off of plants. Therefore it remains questionable how often reproductive females 558 559 encounter larval frass. It is likely that the long-chain hydrocarbon larval tracks are a more frequently encountered signal of potential competitors and predators (section 7.2). 560

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562

563 **8. Interaction of positive and negative cues**

Few studies concurrently examine multiple factors on oviposition to determine how lady beetles respond to the myriad factors that influence their oviposition under realistic conditions. An exception is work by Michaud and Jyoti (2007), which examines the effect of con- and heterospecific larval tracks in combination with the presence or absence of prey. *Hippodamia*

568 convergens oviposition was deterred on plants that had been exposed to conspecific or 569 Coleomegilla maculata larvae. In this system, the negative effect of con- and hetero-specific 570 tracks is stronger than the positive stimulus of prey (Michaud and Jyoti 2007). In contrast to the 571 work on *H. convergens*, Aphidecta obliterata females clearly incorporate both the presence of 572 ODS and prey availability in their oviposition decisions (Oliver et al., 2006). 573 Just as with intraguild predation (Weber and Lundgren, 2009, this issue), as we learn 574 more about the cues that elicit or deter oviposition much work will be needed to determine how 575 adult ladybeetles integrate competing cues in complex realistic situations (Weber and Lundgren, 576 2009, this issue).

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577

578 9. Conclusions.

579 Coccinellids use sensory cues to select oviposition sites that improve their reproductive 580 success. Both the presence and quality of food has a very strong effect on retention of adults in a habitat and on their reproductive output. However, their response to food cues may be 581 582 superseded by responses to deterrent cues associated with potential conspecific and heterospecific predators. There is a need to take on the more difficult task of examining the 583 impact of larval track deterrence in crop field situations, particularly the behavior of females that 584 585 are deterred and the distance traveled to resume oviposition. To advance this area it would be 586 informative to examine the response of females of differing age, previous exposure to 587 ovipositional deterrents, mating status, and egg loads to different visual and olfactory cues. 588 Investigations into what is required for lady beetle oviposition and how to elicit this response 589 may provide better information for using this predator group in biological control. 590 Acknowledgements

- 591 The author expresses appreciation to the editors for inviting this manuscript. Thanks are also due
- 592 to Jacques Brodeur and two anonymous reviewers whose comments improved the manuscript.
- 593 Mention of any proprietary product does not constitute endorsement by the UDSA. Acceleration

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Table 1. Deterrence of oviposition in lady beetles by the larval tracks of con- or heterospecific larvae. 1011 1012

Species assayed	Conspecific track deterrence	Heterospecific track ^a	Deterrent effect
Adalia bipunctata (L.)	Yes (Doumbia et al. 1998)	Adalia decimpunctata	No (Doumbia et al. 1998) Yes (Magro et al. 2007)
		Coccinella septempunctata	No (Doumbia et al. 1998) Yes (Magro et al. 2007)
Adalia decempunctata (L.)	Yes (Magro et al. 2007)	Adalia bipunctata	Yes (Magro et al. 2007)
		Coccinella septempunctata	Yes (Magro et al. 2007)
Aphidecta obliterata (L.)	Yes (Oliver et al. 2006)	Adalia bipunctata	Yes ^b (Oliver et al. 2006)
		Chrysopa carnea (Stephens)	Yes ^b (Oliver et al. 2006)
Ceratomegilla undecimnotata Schneider	Yes (Růžička 2003)	Leis dimidiata	No (Růžička 2003)
Cheilomenes sexmaculata (F.)	Yes (Růžička 2006)	Ceratomegilla undecimnotata	Yes (Růžička 2006)
		Cycloneda limbifer	Yes (Růžička 2006)
		Hippodamia dimidiata (F.)	No (Růžička 2006)
Coccinella septempunctata (L.)	Yes (Růžička 1997, 2001a; Magro et al. 2007);	Adalia bipunctata	No (Doumbia et al. 1998) No (Magro et al. 2007)
	C <i>M</i>	Adalia decempunctata	No (Magro et al. 2007)
		Chrysopa oculata	Yes (Růžička 1997, 2001a)
		Chrysopa perla	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Cycloneda limbifer	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Leis dimidiata	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Semiadalia undecimnotata	No (Růžička 2001a)
Cycloneda limbifer Casey	Yes (Růžička 2001a)	Leis dimidiata	Yes (Růžička 2001a)
		Semiadalia undecimnotanata	Yes (Růžička 2001a)
		Ceratomegilla undecimnotata	No (Růžička 2003)
		Chrysopa oculata Say	No (Růžička 2001a; 2003)
		Chrysopa perla (L.)	No (Růžička 2001a; 2003)
		Coccinella septempunctata	No (Růžička 2001a; 2003)
Harmonia axyridis (Pallas)	Yes (Yasuda et al. 2000)	Coccinella septempunctata	No (Yasuda et al. 2000)
Hippodamia convergens Guérin	Yes (Michaud & Lyoti 2007)	<i>Coleomegilla maculata</i> (DeGeer)	Yes (Michaud & Lyoti 2007)
Leis dimidiata (F.)	No (Růžička 2001a)	Chrysopa oculata	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Chrysopa perla	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Coccinella septempunctata	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Cycloneda limbifer	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Semiadalia undecimnotata	No (Růžička 2001a)
Semiadalia undecimnotata (Schneider)	Yes (Růžička 2001a)	Leis dimidiata	Yes (Růžička 2001a)
× /		Chrysopa oculata	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Chrysopa perla	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Coccinella septempunctata	No (Růžička 2001a)
		Cycloneda limbifer	No (Růžička 2001a)

^a All species are Coleoptera: Coccinellidae, except for *Chrysopa* ssp. (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) ^b Marginal effect (see discussion in Oliver et al., 2006)