

6th European Mosquito Control Association Workshop



Thermal Hotel Helia, Budapest, 12-15 September 2011



Final Programme
Book of Abstracts

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KN-04

HIGHLIGHTS TO THE PREREQUISITES FOR SUCCESSFUL SIMULID CONTROL: A CASE STUDY OF *SIMULIUM ERYTHROCEPHALUM* DE GEER, 1776

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The knowledge about blackfly fauna of a specific geographic region and identification of pest species with the capacity of mass occurrence represent the basic start position necessary in determination of the targeted species for which implementation of control strategies are needed.

Different control strategies, based on larvicide treatments with *B.t.i.* are practiced in several European countries. One of the most ferocious species causing serious discomfort and/or dermatological problems in human population is *Simulium erythrocephalum* that is mammophilic and extremely anthropophilic species, identified in majority of European countries. Well developed biological control programs against this species have been implemented in Lithuania, Spain, France, Germany and Serbia.

S. erythrocephalum could be considered as a typical riverine species, whose highly productive breeding sites were identified in several large lowland rivers flowing through the Pannonian plain such as the Danube, Tisa, Tamiš and Karaš rivers, at altitudes below 100 m. Immature stages were also recorded recently in additional tributaries of the Danube and Sava rivers. Besides river habitats, under certain circumstances immature stages of this species were also detected in some small confluent streams and creeks, at altitude ranging between 82 m and 206 m. The first record of *S. erythrocephalum* in south-east Serbia within the hilly area at the altitude of 394 m, demonstrated the ability of this species to invade also atypical habitats where it was not recorded in the past. Thus, detailed studies of species biology in given ecological conditions of their natural habitats are strongly required as a precondition for establishing adequate control strategies.

Effective blackfly control would be enabled according to the justification of the highest abundance of active larval instars, hydroecological characteristics of the breeding sites (temperature, water flow, turbidity) and larval distribution in the water course that can all influence the carry and the intake of the product.

Keywords: blackflies, bioecology, control, *S. erythrocephalum*

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