Field Observations and Biological Notes of the Entomofauna Associated with *Convolvulus arvensis* L. in Slovakia

P. TOTH¹, M. CRISTOFARO², and L. CAGAN¹

¹Slovak Agricultural University, Department of Plant Protection, A. Hlinku 2, 949 76 Nitra, Slovak Republic
²ENEA C.R. Casaccia, INN BIOAG-ECO, via Anguillarese 301, 00060, Rome, Italy

During 1997 and 1998, periodical surveys were carried out to screen the entomofauna associated with field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*, in Slovakia.

From a list of 79 insect species belonging to the 15 families (from Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera) attacking field bindweed, the fly *Melanagromyza albocilia* Hendel (Diptera: Agromyzidae), two flea beetles *Longitarsus pellucidus* (Foudras), and *L. longipennis* Kutschera (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) and four species of tortoise beetles, *Cassida* spp. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) were selected as promising biocontrol agents.

*Melanagromyza albocilia* larvae were found boring into stems of the field bindweed in many locations. The potential of the fly is related to the narrow host range showed by insect species of the family Agromyzidae. The presence of the larvae can be detected only with plant dissection. The tunnel causes the death of the infested sprouts, with a decrease of the reproductive capacity and photosynthesis. The total number of infested and dried sprouts caused by the fly ranged from 30 to 50% (August - October). In some cases, abundance of pupae was up to 6 pupae per plant.

Five species of parasites, *Aneuropria foersteri* Kieffer (Hymenoptera: Diapriidae), *Sphegigaster truncata* Thomson (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae), *Macroneura versicularis* (Retzius) (Hymenoptera: Eupelmidae), *Chorebus leptogaster* (Haliday) and *Bracon fulvipes* Nees (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) were reared from pupae and larvae of the fly.

In fact, besides the primary damage, the fly exposes field bindweed to secondary damage by opening the “door” to several pathogens, such as fungi and bacteria, with consequent infections which can increase the damage to plants.

Phytotoxic Metabolites Produced by *Drechslera avenacea*, a Potential Mycoherbicide of Wild Oats

M. VURRO, A. EVIDENTE², M. C. ZONNO¹, R. PENGUE², P. MONTEMURRO³, and B. AULD⁴

¹Istituto Tossine e Micotossine da Parassiti Vegetali, CNR, Bari, Italy
²Dipartimento di Scienze Chimico-agrarie, Università Federico II, Portici, Italy
³Istituto di Agronomia Generale e Coltivazioni Erbacee, Università degli Studi, Bari, Italy
⁴Orange Agricultural Institute, Orange NSW, Australia

Wild oats are serious weeds of many crops, both cereals as well as dicotyledons, and are widely distributed across a range of environments and climates. Recently, *Drechslera*