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POSTER SESSION I

PTEROMALIDS (CHALCIDOIDEA: PTEROMALIDAE) DOMINATE MICROHYMENOPTERA IN FLOWERING RAPESEED FIELDS (BRASSICA NAPUS) IN BULGARIA

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Rapeseed (*Brassica napus*) is cultivated in many countries as an important crop both for animal forage and oil-producing source. A number of pests are known to damage the rapeseed stems, flowers and pods. Some of them like *Dasineura brassicae* (brassica pod midge), a few cabbage and rape weevils belonging to genus *Ceutorhynchus* and chrysomelid *Psylliodes chrysocephala*, (cabbage stem flea beetle) are considered as major pests, which populations are naturally regulated by many parasitoid wasps. In this work we sampled ten flowering rapeseed fields in Bulgaria using classic sweep net and aspirator to collect microhymenopterans and analyze their diversity. After the identification of the material we found an overall dominance of pteromalids not only among the all chalcidoids, but also among the all small-sized Hymenoptera. Eleven parasitoid families were represented in the samples – Braconidae, Ichneumonidae, Figitidae (Eucoilinae), Platygasteridae, Scelionidae, Encyrtidae, Eulophidae, Eupelmidae, Perilampidae, Pteromalidae and Torymidae. The most abundant ones were Pteromalidae (49%) and Braconidae (28%). All other microhymenopterans comprised a small part (23%) of the collected material. However, we found that only one pteromalid species – *Mesopolobus morys*, is clearly dominant in studied fields. It counts 37 specimens or 82% of all Pteromalidae and 40% of all Hymenoptera and was found in 7 of 10 rape fields. Although *M. morys* is polyphagous and attacks some major pests in rape fields, its dominance could be considered as surprising to some extent. The other pteromalids we swept from the rapeseed flowers were *Cyrtogaster vulgaris*, *Halticoptera patellana*, *Macroglenes penetrans*, *Mesopolobus incultus*, *Pteromalus* cf. *chlorospilus*, *Pteromalus puparum* and *Pteromalus sequester*.

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