ABSTRACT

Biological studies on Eretmocerus mundus Mercet, a parasitoid of Bemisia tabaci Genn., were carried out on tomatoes at two constant temperatures, 14 and 25°C. Development from egg deposition to adult emergence required 44 days at 14°C and 16 days at 25° C. Adult females lived for 11 days at 14°C and 9 days at 25°C, whereas adult males lived for 5.7 days at 14°C and 4.5 days at 25 °C. The pre-oviposition period ranged from 1.6 to 2.8 days. The average number of eggs laid per female through its life span was 24 eggs (range: 8-41 eggs). The sex ratio (t:9) in adult parasitoids was 1:0.7 at 14 ° C and 1:1.5 at 25°C. These results were used for calculating the rate of increase (rm value) for E. mundus at the two test temperatures. Consequently, the practical value for using E. mundus as a bioagent to control B.. tabaci was discussed.