The Importance of Dormancy and Dormancy Management to Biological Control and Area-Wide approaches

Dan Hahn – summarizing the work of others

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Because life is hard... Stress Biology
Dormancy – environmentally induced lifecycle interruption
Dormancy
Quiescence – direct & rapid response to environment
Dormancy
Quiescence – direct & rapid response to environment
Diapause – a programmed state of developmental arrest
Diapause – a programmed state of developmental arrest.

1) Lifecycle timing and synchronization
2) Mitigates stressful periods – Hardiness
Challenges for Biological Control
Saltcedar an invasive shrub is displacing Freemont’s cottonwood, an iconic riparian tree in the SW US.

Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) is a water hog, changes soil chemistry, and outcompetes the cottonwood.
Challenges for Biological Control

Saltcedar has a longer growing season in the south than beetle active season. Leads to loss of control.

Saltcedar (Tamarix spp.) biological control by Diorhabda spp. beetles. Hultine et al. 2015 Int. Comp. Biol.
What sets diapause timing in the beetle?

Could one reduce the diapause?
When do most insects enter diapause? Should be earlier in the north & later in south.

Figure 2: Diapause incidence in the field at the Pueblo, Colorado site during the summer of 2008. The 2003 values are from Bean et al. 2007a and are shown for comparison. The population reached 50% diapause on ordinal day 223 (August 10, 2008), while in 2003, the population reached 50% diapause on day 207 (July 26).
Beetles are entering diapause later in 2008 than 2003, consistent with adaptive evolution.

Figure 2: Diapause incidence in the field at the Pueblo, Colorado site during the summer of 2008. The 2003 values are from Bean et al. 2007a and are shown for comparison. The population reached 50% diapause on ordinal day 223 (August 10, 2008), while in 2003, the population reached 50% diapause on day 207 (July 26).
How do we improve likelihood of better matching between hosts and biological control agents?

Traditional approach – agents from different regions

Other approaches:
1) Assess genetic variation in dormancy & hardiness
2) Maximize that variation
   - Large populations sizes
   - Deliberate admixture
   - Selective breeding – greater plasticity & hardiness
Challenges for SIT & Augm. Biocontrol
Mass Rearing
- Have to produce enough and at the right time
- Obligate dormancy is a roadblock
How to tackle this problem?

Is there geographic variation in obligate diapause timing?

Figs from Papanastasiou et al. 2011 J. Insect Physiol.
How to tackle this problem?
Geographic variation in obligate diapause

Figs from Papanastasiou et al. 2011 J. Insect Physiol.
Rhagoletis Diapause

Egg → Diapause initiation → Larva → Pupal Diapause → Diapause termination (or “break”) → Pharate Adult → Emerge

- Late Summer & Fall – Temp. OK for Dev.
- Spring – Early Summer Temp. OK for Dev.
Diapause Regulation
Pre-programmed alternative developmental pathway

Characterized by suppressed metabolism and morphogenesis
Common feature: suppression of ecdysteroid signaling
PTTH synthesis → PTTH release → Ecdysone synth → Conversion to 20-hydroxy E → Receptors ECR/Usp → Ecdysteroid signalling

Upstream of PTTH

- Sensory input
- Wnt signaling
- Tor signaling
- Ring gland cell proliferation
- Brain cell proliferation
- Global transcript. reg.

Diapause termination
How can we pull apart mechanisms for timing?

RNAseq of *Rhagoletis* brains and ring glands leading up to critical time of developmental divergence.
Transcripts and SNPs associated with timing

RNAseq of *Rhagoletis* brains and ring glands leading up to critical time of developmental divergence, and bulk segregant Pool-seq of eclosion timing within each popul.
Mass Rearing
- Have to produce enough and at the right time
- Non-obligate dormancy can be trouble
Challenges for SIT & Augm. Biocontrol

- Have to produce enough and **at the right time**
- Stockpile insects in dormancy until needed

Could diapause or other dormancy strategies help with production of seasonal pests?
Challenges for SIT & Augm. Biocontrol

- Have to produce enough and at the right time
- Stockpile insects in dormancy until needed

FAO/IAEA Int. Conf. on Area-Wide Control of Insect Pests,
Penang, May 28 to June 2, 1998

INCORPORATION OF DIAPAUSE INTO CODLING MOTH MASS-REARING: PRODUCTION ADVANTAGES AND INSECT QUALITY ISSUES

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For the past 3 years we have investigated the incorporation of diapause as an alternate rearing strategy in codling moth (CM), *Cydia pomonella* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), mass-rearing at the Sterile Insect Release (SIR) facility in southern British Columbia, Canada. In the field,
Challenges for SIT & Augm. Biocontrol

- Have to produce enough and **at the right time**
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Colinet et al. 2015
Ann. Rev. Entomol.
Could Dormany Mechanisms Help Buffer Stresses of SIT?

STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE (SIT)
A method of biological mosquito control

Mass-rearing of mosquitoes takes place in special facilities.
Male and female mosquitoes are separated. Ionizing radiation is used to sterilize the male mosquitoes.
The sterile male mosquitoes are released over towns or cities...
...where they compete with wild males to mate with females.
These females lay eggs that are infertile and bear no offspring, reducing the mosquito population and disease transmission.

Male Performance May be Decreased by Stress at Colonization, Rearing, Sex Sorting/Handling, Irradiation, Shipping, Release, etc.
Diapause in insects face many challenges so they enhance multifaceted defenses, prevention!

Diapausing pupae are programmed hardy to:
- Cold
- Desiccation
- Anoxia
- Pathogens
- Oxidative stress

Hormetic & Transgenic Approaches to Boost Stress hardiness and Improve Male Performance in SIT

GC Lopez, Nick Teets, Vanessa Dias, Al Handler, & Marc Schelteg
Maintaining genetic integrity of strains, long-term stock storage.
- Goldenrod gall fly can freeze solid during overwinter diapause
- Diapausing larvae remain frozen for months
- Also Antarctic Midge (*Belgica antartica*)
- Also *Chymomyza costata* (Drosophilid)
Conversion of the chill susceptible fruit fly larva (*Drosophila melanogaster*) to a freeze tolerant organism

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Among vertebrates, only a few species of amphibians and reptiles tolerate the formation of ice crystals in their body fluids. Freeze tolerance is much more widespread in invertebrates, especially in insects. Freeze tolerance in insects is typically conferred by a trade-off between the production of ice crystals and cellular dehydration (1). In crustaceans and insects that are capable of surviving the formation of ice crystals, they accumulate high levels of the free amino acid L-proline—an innate cryoprotectant (proline in further text) (20).

In this study, we investigated whether the principles underlying
IAEA CRP – could dormancy management tools be used to:

1. manage life cycles for mass rearing?

2. maintain genetic integrity of strains?

3. enable or enhance shelf life of sterile insects & enemies for release upon demand?
IAEA CRP – could dormancy management tools be used to:

4. reduce radiation injury & performance loss?
5. decrease damage from handling, shipping, & release?
6. develop novel pest management? - inducing “ecological suicide”?
Thanks to...

IAEA/FAO Insect Pest Control – Dormancy CRP