the latter is a preferred host of both tachinid species. We thank Dr. N. E. Woodley, Research Entomologist, Systematic Entomology Laboratory—USDA, Beltsville, Maryland for the identification of the adult tachinid, and Drs. D. H. Habek and R. I. Sailer for reviewing an early draft of this note. Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Series No. 5559.

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PARASITOIDS OF GRASSLOOPER PREPUPAE AND PUPAE IN SOUTH FLORIDA SUGARCANE

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Grassloopers, Mocis spp. (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), are sporadic pests of sugarcane in south Florida and occasionally cause extensive defoliation (see Strayer 1975). Population levels of grassloopers commonly build up in cane during mid to late summer but usually diminish in September. During August, 1983, grasslooper prepupae and pupae were collected from ten different sugarcane fields in Palm Beach County. The loopers were held in large petri dishes under room conditions in the laboratory. A sample of larvac and adults reared in the laboratory were identified as the striped grasslooper, Mocis latipes (Guenée).

Six parasitoid species of the striped grasslooper were identified from specimens recovered in the lab. The most common parasitoid was Sarcodezia sternodontis Townsend (Diptera: Sarcophagidae). This parasitoid was recovered mainly from prepupae but also from pupae. Sarcodezia sternodontis has been reported to parasitize grassloopers in the Gainesville area (Ogunwolu and Habek 1975). A parasitoid Chetogena sp. (Diptera: Tachinidae)
was frequently recovered from prepupae and sometimes from pupae. A yellow chalcid, *Spilochalcis* new sp. near *phais* Burks (Hymenoptera: Chalcididae), was the most common parasitoid of grasslooper pupae; from 2 to 19 (X=8.9) of these chalcids were recovered from individual grasslooper pupae. Two ichneumonids, *Ganbrus ultimus* (Cresson) and *Enicosoplus* sp., were recovered from striped grassloopers, one from pupae and one from a prepupa. A solitary black chalcid, *Brachymeria odagrica* (Fah.) (Hymenoptera:Chalcididae), was recovered from three striped grassloopers but was probably a hyperparasite attacking *S. sternodontis* or *Chetogena*. A solitary parasitoid, *Rogas* sp. (Hymenoptera:Bracidae), was recovered from a young grasslooper larva. An undetermined species of *Rogas* has been reported to parasitize grassloopers in Puerto Rico (Jones and Wolcott 1922).

Percent parasitism levels of striped grasslooper prepupae and pupae ranged from 7.2 to 44.6% in the ten fields surveyed. Of 447 loopers collected, 28.6% were parasitized. Based on 216 grassloopers collected from four of the fields, 33% of the loopers were parasitized; 73% of these were parasitized by *S. sternodontis* or *Chetogena* and 27% were parasitized by *Spilochalcis*. The survey indicated that natural control by parasitoids may frequently be a significant mortality factor of striped grassloopers in sugarcane and that parasitoids should be considered before sugarcane is sprayed with an insecticide to control loopers.

Specimens were identified by F. E. Grissell, R. W. Poole, S. R. Shaw, D. M. Weisman, N. E. Woodley (USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD), V. Gupta (Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL), and L. A. Stange (Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL).

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