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NEW DATA ON LADYBUGS (INSECTA) FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Ladybugs (Insecta: *Coccinellidae*) are beneficial, predatory insects that enjoy increased attention from researchers due to their high potential as biological control agents in organic agriculture. Despite its small size, ladybugs consume a large number of plant pests such as aphids, thrips, mites, scale, whitefly populations etc.

The first study of ladybugs species diversity from the Republic of Moldova was performed, after which 48 species from 28 genera and 7 tribes belonging to the family Coccinellidae were identified. Among the most common species native for the Republic of Moldova are *Adalia bipunctata, Coccinella septempunctata, C. undecimpunctata, Coccinula quatuordecimpustulata, Hippodamia variegata, Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata* and invasive *Harmonia axyridis.*

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