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THE PREDATORY BUG *Amphyareus obscuriceps* (ANTHOCORIDAE) IN THE GREENHOUSE AND ITS COMPETITORS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

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Introduction. Currently, farmers often initiate trends in the production of organic products in greenhouses. In the Republic of Moldova there are no companies producing biological agents. In the neighboring country, Ukraine, there are the most, which produce over 15 species and are successfully used by farmers in greenhouses. The aim of the investigation was to identify competitors of the predatory bug *Amphyareus obscuriceps* under greenhouse conditions.

Materials and methods. The material used was third, fourth and fifth instar larvae and adults of *A. obscuriceps*, herbaceous plants with a successional development in the greenhouse, individuals representing more than 9 taxon orders. The diagnosis of the individuals was carried out on the basis of contemporary and classical diagnostic keys. The veracity of the diagnosis at the specimen level was compared with the material from the entomological-practical collection of the laboratory.

Summarized results. The predatory bedbug *A. obscuriceps* at the stage of larvae of the 3rd, 4th and 5th instars were released into the greenhouse in the summer of 2025, during the period of mass development of the common spider mite *Tetranychus urticae* and tobacco thrips *Thrips tabaci* on cucumbers, and the greenhouse whitefly *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* on tomatoes. In the greenhouse, the air temperature exceeded +40°C and the humidity was 44%. Under such climatic conditions, the predator larvae developed to adulthood, and the adults subsequently laid eggs in the *T. urticae* colonies. Subsequently, cardboard supports were used to observe the hibernation of the bedbug in the greenhouse. In the spring of 2026, in the middle of the second decade of April, the supports were analyzed, where in the cucumber greenhouse no adults of the bedbug were found, and in the tomato greenhouse it was found in single specimens. In the process of analyzing the vegetable residues of tomatoes and cucumbers from the 2025 season, the presence of adults of *A. obscuriceps* was observed. During this period, the temperature was on average +15°C and the air hu-

midity was 65%. The herbaceous flora in both greenhouses was represented by *Stellaria media* on which the thrips *T. tabaci* was found, *Artemisia annua* - *Macrospherella artemisiae*, *Mentha piperita* - *Aphis origani*, *Portulaca oleracea – A. gossipi* and *Chelidonium majus* - *Aleyrodes proletella*. Predatory arthropods were competitors in the food chain of *A. obscuriceps* and consisted of adults of *Anthocoris nemorum*, larvae of *Orius* spp. (Anthocoridae), larvae of *Microlophus pygmeus*, adults of *Dyciphus hesperus* (Miridae), *Coccinella septempunctata*, *Propylea quatuordecempunctata*, *Oenopia conglobate*, *Scymnus* spp. and *Stethorus niger* (Coccinelidae), larvae of *Aphydoletes aphidimyza* (Ceccidomiidae), adults and larvae of the mite *Allotrobium pulvinum* (Trombidiidae). The largest number was the order Aranea with more than 10 families, and among them the most active was the spider *Heliophanus cupreus* (Salticidae). Parasitic competitors were the aphid braconids *Aphis absinthii*, *Lysephedrus vallidus* and *Lysephlebus fabarum* and *Ephedrus niger*.

Conclusions. It was established that *A. obscuriceps* as competitors in the food chain has representatives from 8 orders, from 7 families and has successfully adapted to the arid conditions in the greenhouse with subsequent hibernation in plant debris.

Keywords: predatory bug, greenhouse whitefly, tobacco thrips, food chain, aphids, weeds.

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