


Biological control
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

CRYPTOcontrol | TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

PRODUCT:

- Bottle of 100 adults
- Tube of 500 adults
- Tube of 1,000 adults
- Tube of 500 larvae



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri is a polyphagous predatory, that belongs to the Coleoptera order, although its maximum effectiveness is given by controlling large populations of **mealybugs (cotonet)**. Occasionally it feeds on other insects, such as **aphids**.

BIOLOGY. Eggs are initially shiny and acquire a waxy appearance as they mature. Larvae can reach up to 13 or 14 mm in length. Their bodies are covered with waxy projections that make them resemble their prey. The adult is a beetle about 4 mm long, dark brown in colour, but with an orange head, prothorax, and spots on the elytra. In the female, the middle part of the legs is dark grey or black, while in the male it is yellow.

The complete life cycle can vary between 4 and 7 weeks, depending on temperature. Development takes 8 or 9 days at 21ºC (69.8ºF) and 5 or 6 days at 27ºC (80,6ºF), while larval development lasts 32 days at 24ºC (75.2ºF) and is completed at 25ºC (77ºF) to 30ºC (86ºF).

The female copulates shortly after emergence and begins to lay eggs after 5 days. The longevity of the individuals is approximately 50 days, and it is capable of laying 400 eggs during its life, at a temperature of 25ºC (77ºF). Optimum conditions for their development are at a temperature of 22ºC (71.6ºF) to 25ºC (77ºF) and a relative humidity of 70 to 80%. Their foraging behaviour ceases at temperatures above 33ºC (91.4ºF), and they show no activity below 9ºC (48ºF).

ACTION MODE

- All stages are predators of mealybugs. Adults and young larvae prefer eggs, while later instar larvae are not as selective. Once they capture prey, they devour it completely. One larva can eat more than 250 mealybug larvae.
- Because it has such a wide feeding regime, it can also appear in large numbers in red spider mite outbreaks, with the abdomen of the nymphs being red due to its feeding.



ADVANTAGES

- High efficacy in cottony mealybug control.
- Good behavior for the control of other colonies, such as aphids and red spider mites.
- Compatible and complementary with other predators and parasitoids.

DOSAGE

- 2-10 individuals/m^2, release with the first signs of Cotonet.
- To establish a high population, it will take 1 to 2 months, depending on the temperature and the presence of available prey.

The dosage will vary according to preventive, medium curative or high curative dosage, depending on the crop and pest pressure. Consult the recommended dose with an Agrobío field advisor.

RECOMMENDED CROPS

Different horticultural, ornamental and fruit crops.

USE

Use the pieces of paper to release them, placing them in the hot spot homogeneously. Introduction should take place late in the afternoon or early in the morning.

TRANSPORT Y STORAGE

Keep the box or bottle horizontally and at a temperature between 10ºC (50ºF) and 15 ºC (59ºF). Do not break the cold chain in all the transport and storage process. Do not store the product more than 48 hours after receipt, and never expose it to sunlight or pesticides.

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