Effect of temperature on demographic parameters of the hawthorn red midget moth, *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella*, on apple

Abbas Amiri¹, Ali Asghar Talebi¹*, Abbas Ali Zamani² and Karim Kamali¹

¹Department of Agricultural Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, P.O.Box:14115-336, Tehran, Iran
²Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Razi University, Kermanshah, Iran

Abstract

The hawthorn red midget moth, *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae), is one of the most serious pests of apple and pear orchards in Iran, however little is known about its biology and relationship with environmental factors. The reproduction and population growth parameters of *P. corylifoliella* were examined at six constant temperatures (15, 20, 25, 30, 33 and 35° C) on apple var. golden delicious. At 35° C, *P. corylifoliella* failed to develop beyond the first instar. The lowest (13%) and highest (64%) mortality rates of immature stages occurred at 25 and 33° C, respectively. The life expectancies (*e_x*) decreased with increasing of age and the life expectancies of one-day-old larvae were estimated to be 38.68, 33.34, 35.11, 26.28 and 16.11 days at 15, 20, 25, 30 and 33° C, respectively. The highest intrinsic rate of natural increase (*r_m*), net reproductive rate (*R_o*) and finite rate of increase (*λ*) at 25° C were 0.100 ± 0.003, 47.66 ± 5.47 and 1.11 ± 0.00, respectively. The mean generation time (*T*) decreased with increasing temperatures from 86.86 ± 0.53 days at 15° C to 33.48 ± 0.16 days at 30° C. Doubling time (*DT*) varied significantly with temperature and the shortest doubling time was obtained at 25° C. The results of this study provide direction for future research on evaluating the performance of *P. corylifoliella* and the efficiency of its natural enemies in apple orchards under variable environmental conditions.

Key words: intrinsic rate of increase, reproduction, life table, Iran

Abbreviations: *e_x*, life expectancy; *l_x*, age-specific survival rate; *m_x*, age-specific fecundity; *R_o*, net reproductive rate; *r_m*, intrinsic rate of natural increase; *T*, generation time; *DT*, doubling time

Correspondence: * talebia@modares.ac.ir

Associate Editor: T.X. Liu was editor of this paper.

Received: 4 April 2009, Accepted: 1 February 2010

Copyright: This is an open access paper. We use the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 license that permits unrestricted use, provided that the paper is properly attributed.

ISSN: 1536-2442 | Vol. 10, Number 134

Cite this paper as: Amiri A, Talebi AA, Zamani AA, Kamali K. 2010. Effect of temperature on demographic parameters of the hawthorn red midget moth, *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella*, on apple. *Journal of Insect Science* 10:134 available online: insectscience.org/10.134
Introduction

Slingerland and Crosby (1914) have estimated that about 500 insect species feed on the wood, buds, leaves, blossoms and fruits of apple trees in North America. Among the leaf-feeders are 16 species of lepidopteran leafminers in seven families (Maier 2001). Leaf-mining moths became serious pests in apple and pear orchards in the world by the end of the 1940s (Cross et al. 1999). Leafminers reduce capacity for photosynthesis and damage is expressed as premature ripening and fruit drop. Pincebourade et al. (2006) illustrate a novel mechanism by which plants might minimize losses from herbivore attacks via trade-offs between the negative impacts on photosynthesis and the positive effects of increased water use efficiency. The thermal environment of the leaf miner Phyllonorycter blancardella investigated in great detail by Pincebourade and Casas (2006a). They built a biophysical model to predict the temperature within a mine and suggest that this warm microclimate allows larvae to develop faster, leading to a reduced risk of attack by parasitoids. The effects of feeding activity of the leafminer P. blancardella on body temperature and respiration rate indicated body temperature and respiration rate increase with radiation level. Therefore, the miner is not always protected from radiations despite living within plant tissues (Pincebourade and Casas 2006b).

The family Gracillariidae is one of the largest families of plant-mining Lepidoptera with 1818 species currently recognized (De Prins and Mozaraitis 2006; De Prins 2007). Phyllonorycter (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae) is one of the most species-rich genera of all Lepidoptera and has been the subject of a great deal of research in past decades (Pottinger and Leroux 1971; Askew and Shaw 1979; Reissig et al. 1982; De Prins and Mozaraitis 2006; Lopez-Vaamonde et al. 2003, 2006). Some of them are well known as pests of fruit orchards in the Holarctic region (Baggiolini 1960; Pottinger and Leroux 1971). P. corylifoliella (Hübner) was first reported from Iran in 1970 and gradually spread to across north, northwest and central regions (Radjabi 1986; Modarres Aval 1997). This species is widespread in Europe and also recorded in the Near East including Asian Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan, Sinai Peninsula (Egypt), the Arabian peninsula, Iran and Iraq (Olivella 2000). Most Phyllonorycter species are specialists, typically restricted to a single host-plant genus or, in some cases, even a single plant species. However, P. corylifoliella is a relative generalist species, which is known to feed on plants from six genera in two families, Betulaceae and Rosaceae. This moth, with other related species such as P. blancardella and P. turanica, has become an important pest of rosaceous trees in many apple-producing areas in Iran (Radjabi 1986). For each pest management program, an exact determination of the demographic parameters is required. Demographic parameters are important in measurement of population growth capacity of a species under specified conditions (Southwood and Henderson 2000). These parameters are also used as indices of population growth rates responding to selected conditions, and as bioclimatic indices in assessing the potential of a pest population growth in a new area (Southwood and Henderson 2000). Demographic population analysis has diverse applications for examining the dynamics of colonizing or invading species, predicting life history evolution, predicting outbreaks in pest species.
and estimating extinction probabilities (Granett et al. 1983; Trichilo and Leigh 1985; Carey et al. 1988; Omer et al. 1992; McPeek and Kalisz 1993; Vargas et al. 1997). Demographic information may also be useful in constructing population models and understanding interactions with other insect pests and natural enemies (Carey 1982).

The comprehensive knowledge of different biological characteristics of *P. corylifoliella* under variable environmental conditions is required for the establishment of a pest management program in apple orchards. The demographic parameters of *P. corylifoliella*, have not been studied. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to determine the relationship between various demographic parameters and temperature for *P. corylifoliella*.

**Materials and methods**

**Rearing methods and experimental conditions**

This study was carried out during 2007 in the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran. Forty-two one-year-old apple trees, *Malus domestica* var. golden delicious, Borkhausen (Rosales: Rosaceae), nearly 120 cm in height were transferred to growth chambers at 25 ± 1º C, 60 ± 5% RH and 16:8 L:D. The leafminers used in the experiments were originally collected from apple orchards in the Seddeh (52° 12' E and 30° 43' N), located in the north of Fars Province of Iran. Apple leaves infested with pupae and last instar larvae were transferred into plastic containers and were kept in a growth chamber. After emergence, adults were transferred into mating cages (40×40×40 cm) containing apple seedlings for 12 h. The adult moths were supplied with fresh food (10% honey-water solution), which was sprayed on leaves during the mating period. Then, 15-20 mated female moths were released into cylindrical Plexiglas containers (40 cm diameter and 60 cm height) on apple seedlings for 12 h. The exposed seedlings were kept in a growth chamber (25 ± 1º C, 65 ± 5% RH and 16: 8 L:D) until the leaf miner population reached to desired numbers (more than 500 pairs adults). Adults obtained at 25º C were reared for one generation at each temperature (15, 20, 25, 30 and 33º C) with the same procedure before using them in the experiments.

**Survival and mortality**

The effect of six constant temperatures, 15, 20, 25, 30, 33 and 35º C, on survival and mortality of *P. corylifoliella* was determined under laboratory conditions. The experiments were conducted in temperature-controlled incubators (Binder, model KBWF720, http://www.binder-world.com) operated at assigned constant temperatures. At the beginning of experiments for each temperature, 100 newly laid eggs on apple leaves were selected (1- 2 eggs per leaf). Developmental stages of *P. corylifoliella* were monitored daily at 10X and survival or mortality of eggs, larvae, pupae and adults were recorded. The experiments were continued until the death of all individuals of the cohort. Based on the data of mortality and survivorship of *P. corylifoliella*, two life table parameters were calculated by the following equations (Carey 1993):

\[
l_x = \frac{N_x}{N_0}
\]

\[
e_x = \frac{T_x}{l_x}
\]

where *x* is the age in days, *l*<sub>*x*</sub> is age-specific survival rate or the fraction of individuals of the initial cohort alive at age *x*, *N*<sub>*x*</sub> is number
alive at age \( x \), \( N_0 \) is the initial number of individuals in the cohort, \( e_x \) is life expectancy at age \( x \), \( T_x \) is the number of time units lived by the cohort from age \( x \) until the death of all cohort individuals.

**Reproduction and population growth parameters**

The reproduction and population growth parameters of *P. corylifoliella* were studied at five constant temperatures including 15, 20, 25, 30 and 33° C. The leafminer moths failed to develop at temperatures of 10 and 35° C. Therefore, these temperatures were excluded from the data analysis. At the beginning of experiments for each temperature, newly emerged virgin males and females (10-20♂ × 10-20♀) were taken from those reared at different temperatures. Each couple were separately placed into detached apple leaf discs with wet cotton wool in Petri dishes (7 cm diameter, 2 cm height) and then transferred into growth chambers with a specific temperature that experiments should be conducted, relative humidity of 60 ± 5% and a photoperiod of 16: 8 L:D. Each Petri dish was observed daily and during the reproductive period, newly laid eggs were counted and then removed. This procedure continued until death of all adult females.

From the females age in days (\( x \)), age-specific survival (\( l_x \)) and age-specific fecundity (\( m_x \)), the following parameters were calculated using formula suggested by Carey (1993): gross and net fecundity and fertility rates, mean eggs per day, mean fertile eggs per day, intrinsic rate of natural increase (\( r_m \)), mean generation time (\( T \)), finite rate of increase (\( \lambda \)), net reproduction rate (\( R_0 \)) and doubling time (\( DT \)).

**Data analysis**

The statistical differences in various demographic parameters were tested using the Jackknife procedure (Meyer et al. 1986). This procedure is used mostly to estimate variance and bias of estimators. It is based on repeated recalculation of the required estimator, removing one sample in turn (Maia et al. 2000). It is used to quantify uncertainty associated with parameter estimates, as an alternative to analytical procedures in cases for which the last ones require very complicated mathematical derivation (Maia et al. 2000).

Algorithms for jacknife estimation of the means and variances are described only for \( r_m \). Similar procedures were used for the other parameters. The steps for the application of the method are the following (Maia et al. 2000; Zamani et al. 2006):

A) Estimation of \( r_m \), considering the survival and reproduction data for all the \( n \) females, referred to as true calculation. At this point, called step zero, estimates obtained are denoted as \( r_m(\text{all}) \) (Maia et al. 2000).

B) Repeat the procedure described in part \( a \) for \( n \) times, each time excluding a different female. In so doing, in each step \( i \), data of \( n-1 \) females are taken to estimate parameters for each step, now named \( r_m(i) \) (Maia et al. 2000).

C) In each step \( i \), pseudo-values are calculated for each parameter, subtracting the estimate in step zero from the estimate in step \( i \), For instance, the pseudo-values of \( r_m \), \( r_m(j) \), was calculated for the \( n \) samples using the following equations (Maia et al. 2000):

\[
r_m(j) = n \times r_m(\text{all}) - (n - 1) \times r_m(i)\]
The differences in reproduction and population parameters were compared using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). If significant differences were detected, multiple comparisons were made using Student-Newman-Keuls (SNK) \((P<0.05)\). Statistical analysis was carried out using Minitab software (MINITAB 2000).

**Results**

**Survivorship, mortality and fecundity**

The age-specific survivorship pattern of *P. corylifoliella* at different temperatures is shown in Figure 1. *P. corylifoliella* completed its development from 15 to 33°C. At 35°C, 16% of eggs reached the first larval instar and then died. The lowest (13%) and highest (64%) mortality rates of immature stages occurred at 25 and 33°C, respectively. The immature mortality rates at 15, 20 and 30°C were 38, 36 and 33%, respectively. The highest survivorship period of *P. corylifoliella* was at 15°C (Figure 1). In general, life expectancies \((e_x)\) for *P. corylifoliella* decreased with increasing age and the life expectancies of one-day-old larvae were estimated to be 38.68, 33.34, 35.11, 26.28 and 16.11 days at 15, 20, 25, 30 and 33°C, respectively and life expectancies of adults at emergence were 7.27, 4.35, 8.49, 4.75 and 1.49 days, respectively (Figure 2). Age-specific fecundity of *P. corylifoliella* reared at various constant temperatures is shown in Figure 3. The moths reared at 15°C had a longer reproductive period than those reared at 20, 25, 30 and 33°C. There was no significant difference in the number of reproducing days at 30 and 33°C. Oviposition generally began one day after adult

![Figure 1. Age-specific survivorship \(l_x\) of *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* from egg stage to adult death at five constant temperatures. High quality figures are available online.](image-url)
emergence. The mean daily reproductive rate (eggs/female/day) was 5.36 ± 0.76, 9.14 ± 2.31, 12.56 ± 2.41, 13.40 ± 3.40 and 6.80 ± 2.56 at 15, 20, 25, 30 and 33° C, respectively. Daily females' fecundities rise to a peak on days 18, 4, 6, 4 and 2 after adult emergence at 15, 20, 25, 30 and 33° C, respectively (Figure 3).

**Figure 2.** Life expectancy (e_x) of *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* from egg stage to adult death at five constant temperatures. High quality figures are available online.

**Figure 3.** Age-specific fecundity (m_x) of *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* at five constant temperatures, (age expressed from the onset of the egg stage). High quality figures are available online.
Reproduction and population growth parameters

The effect of temperature was highly significant for the different reproductive parameters including gross \((F = 11.41; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and net \((F= 14.405; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) fecundity rates, gross \((F = 15.82; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and net \((F = 17.51; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) fertility rates, mean eggs per day \((F = 10.66; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and mean fertile eggs per day \((F = 13.15; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) (Table 1). The highest and lowest values of gross and net fecundity and fertility rates of \(P.\ corylifoliella\) were found at 25 and 33\(^\circ\) C, respectively. In general, the fecundity and fertility gross and net rates increased with increasing temperature from 15 to 25\(^\circ\) C and then decreased at 30 and 33\(^\circ\) C. The gross fecundity rates varied from 47.58 ± 10.68 at 33\(^\circ\) C to 173.36 ± 16.18 at 25\(^\circ\) C (Table 1). The maximum values of mean eggs per day and mean fertile eggs per day were estimated to be 15.74 ± 1.48 and 14.15 ± 1.32, at 30 and 25\(^\circ\) C, respectively (Table 1).

The population growth parameters of \(P.\ corylifoliella\) at five constant temperatures are summarized in Table 2. The Net reproductive rate \((R_0)\) is the average number of female offspring produced in a lifetime by a female and was significantly different \((F = 18.56; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) at all temperatures according to the pattern of 25> 20> 30> 15> 33\(^\circ\) C. The intrinsic rate of natural increase \((r_m)\) also differed significantly at various constant temperatures \((F = 112.94; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and increased almost linearly with increasing temperature to reach a maximum at 25\(^\circ\) C and then decreased at 30 and 33\(^\circ\) C, presenting an asymmetrical dome-shaped pattern. The highest \(r_m\) value was calculated to be 0.100 ± 0.003 at 25\(^\circ\) C. The temperature showed significantly effects on the finite rate of increase \((\lambda)\) \((F = 111.308; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\), doubling time \((DT)\) \((F = 98.622; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and mean generation time \((T)\) \((F = 2361.503; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) (Table 2). Like \(r_m\), the finite rate of increase was higher at 25\(^\circ\) C than at the other temperatures. The shortest and longest values of doubling time were estimated to be 6.97 ± 0.21 and 20.57 ± 1.18 days at 25 and 15\(^\circ\) C, respectively. Unlike the other population growth statistics, the mean generation time was the shortest at 30\(^\circ\) C.

Discussion

Although insects do not live in a stable environment without temperature fluctuation, the results of studies under constant temperatures are still very useful in understanding the population dynamics of various insects (Summers et al. 1984).

This study provides realistic information on the effects of a broad range of constant temperatures on demography of \(P.\ corylifoliella\) at five constant temperatures summarized in Table 2. The Net reproductive rate \((R_0)\) is the average number of female offspring produced in a lifetime by a female and was significantly different \((F = 18.56; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) at all temperatures according to the pattern of 25> 20> 30> 15> 33\(^\circ\) C. The intrinsic rate of natural increase \((r_m)\) also differed significantly at various constant temperatures \((F = 112.94; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and increased almost linearly with increasing temperature to reach a maximum at 25\(^\circ\) C and then decreased at 30 and 33\(^\circ\) C, presenting an asymmetrical dome-shaped pattern. The highest \(r_m\) value was calculated to be 0.100 ± 0.003 at 25\(^\circ\) C. The temperature showed significantly effects on the finite rate of increase \((\lambda)\) \((F = 111.308; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\), doubling time \((DT)\) \((F = 98.622; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) and mean generation time \((T)\) \((F = 2361.503; \text{df} = 4; \text{Pvalue}= 0.00)\) (Table 2). Like \(r_m\), the finite rate of increase was higher at 25\(^\circ\) C than at the other temperatures. The shortest and longest values of doubling time were estimated to be 6.97 ± 0.21 and 20.57 ± 1.18 days at 25 and 15\(^\circ\) C, respectively. Unlike the other population growth statistics, the mean generation time was the shortest at 30\(^\circ\) C.

**Table 1.** The reproductive parameters (mean±SE) of Phyloorycter corylifoliella at five constant temperatures

| Parameter                  | Temperature |
|----------------------------|-------------|
|                           | 15\(^\circ\) C | 20\(^\circ\) C | 25\(^\circ\) C | 30\(^\circ\) C | 33\(^\circ\) C |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Gross fecundity rate       | 98.09±12.6\(^a\) | 96.69±10.83\(^b\) | 173.36±16.18\(^a\) | 84.48±8.89\(^b\) | 47.58±10.68\(^c\) |
| Gross fertility rate       | 87.29±11.28\(^a\) | 87.11±9.75\(^b\) | 169.89±15.86\(^a\) | 83.24±7.84\(^b\) | 33.78±7.59\(^b\) |
| Net fecundity rate         | 31.62±4.08\(^bc\) | 47.21±3.77\(^b\) | 82.76±9.72\(^a\) | 47.37±3.54\(^a\) | 16.69±3.82\(^b\) |
| Net fertility rate         | 28.14±3.67\(^bc\) | 42.54±3.39\(^b\) | 81.11. 9.52\(^a\) | 41.73±3.12\(^a\) | 11.85±2.71\(^c\) |
| Mean eggs per day          | 5.77±0.75\(^d\) | 10.74±1.2\(^bc\) | 14.45±1.35\(^ab\) | 15.74±1.48\(^a\) | 7.93±1.78\(^c\) |
| Mean fertile eggs per day  | 5.13±0.66\(^c\) | 9.68±1.08\(^b\) | 14.15±1.32\(^a\) | 13.87±1.15\(^a\) | 5.63±1.26\(^c\) |

Different letters (a, b, c) in the rows indicate significant differences among various temperatures (P < 0.05, SNK after one-way ANOVA)
Phyllonorycter corylifoliella on golden delicious apples, which has not been previously studied. The results revealed obvious effects of temperature on the mortality, survival and fecundity of *P. corylifoliella*. Population demographic parameters are important in measurement of population growth capacity of a species under specified conditions. These parameters are also used as indices of population growth rates responding to selected conditions and as bioclimatic indices in assessing the potential of a pest population growth in a new area (Southwood and Henderson, 2000). Temperature had a significantly influence on the various population demographic parameters. The *r_m* is an important value, because it indicates the temperature at which the growth of a population is most favorable, and this reflects overall effects of temperature on development, reproduction, and survival (Southwood and Henderson, 2000). The greatest value of the intrinsic rate of natural increase was obtained at 25°C, indicating that this temperature is optimum for reproduction of *P. corylifoliella* and its population would proliferate very fast at 25°C. This reflected the occurrence of a high oviposition rate early in adult life at this temperature and reproduction values at this temperature were more favorable than others. Thus, 25°C may be the best choice for maintenance of a laboratory colony of *P. corylifoliella*. The lowest *R_o* at 33°C resulted in heavy mortality of the immature life stages and also of adults between emergence and peak oviposition (Figure 1). The shortest value of the mean generation time was obtained at 30°C indicating that development of *P. corylifoliella* took place faster at this temperature than at the other temperatures. The findings of this study can be used for predicting *P. corylifoliella* population dynamics at different temperatures under field conditions.

Many models have been introduced for prediction of population dynamics of pests and their natural enemies by ecologists (e.g. Lotka-Volterra model, Nicholson-Baily model, etc), and nearly in all of these models the intrinsic rate of increase (*r_m*) is a key parameter. Although *r_m* has been calculated for many insects, most models are not sufficiently accurate for forecasting population dynamics. Since in many cases, *r_m* has been calculated at a constant temperature under laboratory conditions, while in the field insects are faced with temperature fluctuations, and growth rates of insects are different at the various temperatures. In this study, the intrinsic rate of increase of the hawthorn red midget moth was calculated at various constant temperatures. Therefore, we can more accurately predict population dynamics of *P. corylifoliella* in the field under variable conditions.

An understanding of thermal requirements of a particular insect such as *P. corylifoliella* is important for predicting of its potential geographic distribution in different regions. Using the obtained data in this study, we will

| Parameter                     | Temperature |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
|                               | 15°C        | 20°C        | 25°C        | 30°C        | 33°C        |
| Net reproduction rate (*R_o*) | 16.21±1.95bc | 26.1±2.03b  | 47.66±5.47a | 26.03±1.72b | 8.30±1.71c  |
| Intrinsic rate of increase (*r_m*) | 0.032±0.0011d | 0.069±0.0015b | 0.100±0.003a | 0.097±0.0017a | 0.054±0.0069c |
| Finite rate of increase (*λ*)  | 1.03±0.0017d | 1.07±0.0017b | 1.11±0.0034a | 1.10±0.002a  | 1.06±0.0072c |
| Doubling time (DT)             | 20.57±1.18c  | 9.81±0.28c  | 6.97±0.21d  | 7.13±0.14d  | 12.63±1.73b |
| Mean generation time (T)       | 86.86±0.53c  | 47.09±1.99b  | 38.62±0.28c  | 33.48±0.16e  | 36.7±0.33d  |

The means followed by different letters in the rows are significantly different (P<0.05, SNK after one-way ANOVA).
able to generate isothermal lines to predict the probable distribution regions for \( P. \) corylifoliella using the method of Manrique et al. (2008). They used the pupal lethal times (lethal time\(_{50}\) and \( 90\)) of Episimus utilis Zimmerman at 0 and 5° C to develop models to predict isothermal lines with regions unfavorable for \( E. \) utilis establishment.

Using a temperature-controlled environment is an essential component of mass production facilities for consistent rearing of insects for field release programs. Mass rearing of parasitoids with the leafminer as a host is being done in insectariums (Haghani et al., 2006), making our findings useful for mass production of parasitoids. Likewise, survival and adult longevity measured under different temperature regimens are important for understanding leafminer invasive biology and overwintering behavior (Papadopoulos et al., 1998). These factors become important when leafminers are introduced accidentally into new areas and eradication is considered (Vargas et al. 2000). In conclusion, this research has shown that 25° C is the most suitable temperature regime for \( P. \) corylifoliella population growth on apple. The results obtained during this study at several constant temperatures will be useful for future research for evaluating the performance of \( P. \) corylifoliella and the efficiency of its natural enemies in apple orchards under variable environmental conditions. More attention should be devoted to semi-field and field experiments to obtain more applicable results under field conditions.

**Acknowledgments**

We are most grateful to the Department of Entomology, Tarbiat Modares University for financial supporting this research. We also thank to two anonymous reviewers for valuable comments and recommendations on earlier version of the manuscript.

**References**

Askew RR, Shaw MR. 1979. Mortality factors affecting the leaf mining stages of Phyllonorycter (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae) on oak and birch and biology of parasite species. Zoology Journal of the Linnaean Society of London 67: 51-64.

Baggiolini M. 1960. Observations sur la biologie de deux mineuses du genre Lithocolletis: \( L. \) corylifoliella et \( L. \) blancardella (Lep. Gracillariidae), nuisibles aux arbres fruitiers Suisse romande. Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft 32(4): 385-397.

Campbell A, Frazer BD, Gilbert N, Gutierrez AP, Mackauer M. 1974. Temperature requirements of some aphids and their parasites. Journal of Applied Ecology 11: 431-438.

Carey JR. 1982. Demography and population dynamics of the Mediterranean fruit fly. Ecological Modelling 16: 125–150.

Carey JR, Yang P, Foote D. 1988. Demographic analysis of insect reproductive levels, patterns and heterogeneity: Case study of laboratory strains of three Hawaiian tephritids. Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata 46: 85–91.

Carey JR. 1993. Applied Demography for Biologists with Special Emphasis on Insect. Oxford University Press.

Cross JV, Solomon MG, Babandreier D, Blommers L, Easterbrook MA, Jay CN, Jenser
G. Jolly RL, Kuhlmann U, Lilley R, Olivella E, Toepfer S, Vidal S. 1999. Biocontrol of pests of apples and pears in northern and central Europe: 2. Parasitoids. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* 9: 277-314.

De Prins J. 2007. *Afrotropical Gracillariidae*. Metafro Infosys. Available online: http://www.metafro.be/graci

De Prins J, Mozaraitis R. 2006. A new species of *Phyllonorycter* (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae) from Kenya discovered by using the sex attractant Z8-tetradecen-1-yl acetate. *Zootaxa* 1124: 55–68.

Granett J, Bisabri-Ershadi B, Carey JR. 1983. Life tables of *phylloxera* on resistant and susceptible grape rootstocks. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* 34: 13–19.

Logan JA, Wolkind DJ, Hoyt SC, Tanigoshi LK. 1976. An analytical model for description of temperature dependent rate phenomena in arthropods. *Environmental Entomology* 5: 1130-1140.

Lopez-Vaamonde C, Godfray HCJ, Cook JM, 2003. Evolutionary dynamics of host plant use in a genus of leaf-mining moths. *Evolution* 57: 1804-1821.

Lopez-Vaamonde C, Wikström N, Labandeira C, Godfray HCJ, Goodman SJ, Cook JM, 2006. Fossil-calibrated molecular phylogenies reveal that leaf-mining moths radiated several million years after their host plants. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 19: 1314-1326.

Maia AHN, Luiz AJB, Camponhola C. 2000. Statistical inference on associated fertility life table parameters using Jacknife technique: Computational Aspects. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 93: 511- 518.

Maier CT. 2001. Exotic lepidopteran leafminers in North American apple orchards: Rise to prominence, management, and future threats. *Biological Invasions* 3: 283-293.

Manrique V, Cuda, JP, Overholt, WA, Diaz R. 2008. Temperature-dependent development and potential distribution of *Episimus utilis* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), a candidate biological control agent of Brazilian peppertree (Sapindales: Anacardiaceae) in Florida. *Environmental Entomology* 37: 862-870.

McPeek MA, Kalisz, S., 1993. Population sampling and bootstraping in complex designs: demographic analysis. In: Scheiner SM. Gurevitch J, editors. *Design and Analysis of Ecological Experiments*, pp. 273–289. Chapman and Hall.

Meyer JS, Ingersoll, CG, Mcdonald, LL, Boyce MS. 1986. Estimating uncertainly in population growth rates: Jackknife vs. bootstrap techniques. *Ecology*, 67: 1156-1166.

MINITAB. 2000. MINITAB User's Guide, version 13.20. MINITAB Ltd.

Modarres AM. 1997. *List of agricultural pests and their natural enemies in Iran*. Ferdowsi University Press, Mashhad, Iran.

Haghani M, Fathipour Y, Talebi AA, Baniameri V. 2006. Comparative demography of *Liriomyza sativae* Blanchard (Diptera: Agromyzidae) on cucumber at seven constant temperatures. *Insect Science* 13: 477-483.

Haghani M, Fathipour Y, Talebi AA, Baniameri V. 2006. Comparative demography of *Liriomyza sativae* Blanchard (Diptera: Agromyzidae) on cucumber at seven constant temperatures. *Insect Science* 13: 477-483.

Lopez-Vaamonde C, Godfray HCJ, Cook JM. 2003. Evolutionary dynamics of host-plant use in a genus of leaf-mining moths. *Evolution* 57(8): 1804–1821.
Olivella E. 2000. Aportació al coneixement dels lepidòpters minadors de Catalunya. *Butlleti de la Societat Catalana de Lepidopterologia* 85: 27–36.

Omer AD, Leigh TF, Carey JR, Granett J. 1992. Demographic analyses of organophosphate-resistant and susceptible strains of greenhouse whitefly, *Trialeurodes vaporariorum*, on three cotton cultivars. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Appllicata* 65: 21–30.

Papadopolos NT, Katsoyannos BI, Carey JR. 1998. Temporal changes in the composition of the overwintering larval population of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Diptera: Tephritidae) in northern Greece. *Annals of the Entomological Society of the America* 91: 430-434.

Pincebourade S, Casas J. 2006a. Multitrophic biophysical budgets: Thermal ecology of an intimate herbivore insect-plant interaction. *Ecological Monographs* 76(2): 175–194.

Pincebourade S, Casas J. 2006b. Leaf miner-induced changes in leaf transmittance cause variations in insect respiration rates. *Journal of Insect Physiology* 52: 194–201.

Pincebourade S, Frak E, Sinoout H, Regnard JL, Casas J. 2006. Herbivory mitigation through increased water-use efficiency in a leaf-mining moth–apple tree relationship. *Plant, Cell and Environment* 29: 2238–2247.

Pottinger RP, LeRoux EJ. 1971. The biology and dynamics of *Lithocolletis blancardella* (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae) on apple in Quebec. *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada* 77: 1–437.

Radjabi GH. 1986. *Insects attacking rosaceous fruit trees in Iran*. Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute, Tehran.

Reissig WH, Weires RW, Forshey CG. 1982. Effects of gracillariid leafminers on apple tree growth and production. *Environmental Entomology*, 11: 958-963.

Slingerland MV, Crosby CR. 1914. *Manual of fruit insects*. Macmillan.

Southwood TRE, Henderson PA. 2000. *Ecological methods*. Blackwell Science.

Summer CG, Coviello RL, Gutierrez AP. 1984. Influence of constant temperatures on the development and reproduction of *Acyrthosiphon kondoi* (Homoptera: Aphididae). *Environmental Entomology* 13: 236-242.

Trichilo PJ, Leigh TF. 1985. The use of life tables to assess varietals resistance of cotton to spider mites. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Appllicata* 39: 27–33.

Vargas RI, Walsh WA, Kanehisa DT, Jang EB, Armstrong JW. 1997. Demography of four Hawaiian fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) reared at five constant temperatures. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 90: 162-168.

Vargas RI, Walsh WA, Kanehisa DT, Stark JD, Nishida T. 2000. Comparative demography of tree Hawaiian fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) at alternating temperatures. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 93: 75-81.

Zamani AA, Talebi AA, Fathipour Y, Baniameri V. 2006. Effect of temperature on biology and population growth parameters of...
Aphis gossypii Glover (Homoptera: Aphididae) on greenhouse cucumber. *Journal of Applied Entomology* 130: 453–460.