



# Citrus Mealybug Parasite

## *Leptomastix dactylopii*

PO Box 1555, Ventura, CA 93002  
 800-248-2847 \* 805-643-5407 \* fax 805-643-6267  
 questions [bugnet@rinconvitova.com](mailto:bugnet@rinconvitova.com)  
 orders [orderdesk@rinconvitova.com](mailto:orderdesk@rinconvitova.com)  
[www.rinconvitova.com](http://www.rinconvitova.com)



**Packaging:** 30ml vial contains 100 adult *Leptomastix dactylopii* (Hymenoptera:Encyridae) parasitic wasps

**Target:** Citrus mealybug, *Planococcus citri*; third larval stage and adult. Other mealybug species are not parasitized.

**Appearance:** Female adults: ± 3 mm, yellow brown. Male adults: smaller than female, hairy antennae. Other stages: develop inside host.

**Fecundity:** 60-200 eggs

### Introduction Rates

	RATE	ONE UNIT COVERS:	FREQUENCY & INTERVAL
Preventive	1/m <sup>2</sup>	100 m <sup>2</sup> or infested plants	-
Curative light (10-15 adult and egg masses per plant)	5/ m <sup>2</sup>	20 m <sup>2</sup> or infested plants	every week for at least 3 weeks
Curative heavy (20+ adults and egg masses per plant)	5/ m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup> or infested plants	weekly along with <i>Cryptolaemus montrouzieri</i>

**Introduction:** Between infested leaves in the morning or in the evening. Releases of 200-1,200 per acre controlled citrus mealybug in citrus orchards in Sardinia (Marras 2000)

**Life cycle:** About 25 days at 72°F and 18 days at 80°F. Eggs are laid inside a 3<sup>rd</sup> larval stage or adult mealybug and hatch within 2 days. The mealybug becomes a legless, brown and barrel-shaped mummy with 5-6 days as the wasp larvae develops inside. After 7-8 days more the adult chews a hole in one end of the mummy and emerges. Adults feed upon the honeydew produced by the mealybugs and will live longer if this or an alternate source, such as nectar, is available.

**Visual effect:** Look for the mummies with exit holes approximately 2 weeks after introduction!

**Scouting:** The key to effective control! Do a visual check of 5 lower branches per row, and the upper third and buds on 5 plants per row. Scout weekly for preventative, twice weekly for light and 3-4 times weekly for heavy control. Pheromone traps are available for monitoring mealybug presence at low densities.

**Pesticide compatibility:** *Leptomastix* is susceptible to many of the pesticides that mealybugs have developed resistance to. Contact RVI for specific questions but generally 2-4 weeks are necessary between pesticide application and release of beneficials.

**Storage:** It is **not** possible to store these beneficial insects after receipt! Release immediately upon receipt!

Marras, P. 2000. "Biological control of *Planococcus citri* (Risso) with *Leptomastix dactylopii* (How.) for reducing insecticide use in citrus production in Sardinian" <http://www.ejbiotechnology.info/feedback/proceedings/05/ortuingl.html>