

- Project Title** : Natural effectiveness, dispersal and possibilities on utilizing of egg parasitoid *Telenomus busseolae* (Gahan) (Hym.: Scelionidae) against the corn stalk borer *Sesamia nonagrioides* Lef. (Lep.: Noctuidae) in maize areas of Aegean Region
- Start Date** : 2010
- Supporting Body** : GDAR
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- Summary** : The corn stalk borer Lef. (Lep.: Noctuidae) and european corn borer *Ostrinia nubilalis* Hbn. (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) are serious pests of corn in the second crop growing areas in Turkey. In recent years, the corn stalk borer attract attention due to damage rate higher than european corn borer. The control of these corn borers using chemical pesticides presents several problems, mainly because of the larval activity inside the plant tissues and fast development of the plants.
- According to the studies in Europe, Africa and Asia, the most effective natural enemy species of the corn stalk borer is *Telenomus busseolae* Gahan. The results of studies carried out on *T. busseolae* biology and behavioural ecology confirm the high potential offered by this species as a biocontrol agent and therefore mass rearing and release of this species should be investigated.
- Taking into consideration the high damage rate of the corn stalk and difficulties presents by using chemical pesticides, biological control possibilities against corn stalk borer should be investigated. The purpose of this study is to determine egg parasitoids species of the corn stalk borer, their dispersal, natural effectiveness and to investigate the possibilities on utilizing of the important egg parasitoid species in maize growing areas of Aydın, İzmir and Manisa provinces of Aegean Region.