

## **Umbert-Eco - Ecosystem services on horticulture: value of native mirid species**

**ABSTRACT** | The present project will look deeply into *Dicyphus cerastii* bioecology to assess its potential as a biological control agent for protected horticultural crops. This mirid will be firstly collected from different places in Portugal and reared in the laboratory, in ISA. Any species/population morphological differences will be documented. The phylogeny and phylogeography of the *Dicyphus* genus in the Iberian Peninsula will be studied by FCID. The host plant-prey preference will be assessed in laboratory in ISA with the use of a multi-choice dynamic olfactometer. The combinations that originate interesting responses will be further examined as Organic Volatile Compounds will be extracted and identified by FCID. With the results from the previous stages of the project a conservation strategy will be designed in order to maintain or augment Du populations in protected horticulture, accomplishing to the directive EU 2009/128 on the reducing pesticide use.

**REFERENCE** | PTDC/ASP-PLA/29110/2017

**DURATION** | 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2023

**TOTAL FUNDING** | 236 860,86 EUR

**LEADING INSTITUTION** | LEAF, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

**PARTNERS** | FCiências.ID – Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências.

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