

The *Coccinula* Working Group (1999 -)

Aims

- to define the geographic range of ladybird species in Belgium,
- to describe habitat, host plant and food preferences of each species.

Coordination

- Jeunes & Nature asbl
- Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en Milieubescherming (JNM)

Number of records per plot (April 2003)

Ladybird sampling techniques

- Beating sheet (tree habitat)
- Sweep net (ground vegetation)
- Visual search
- (Yellow sticky traps)

What about *Harmonia axyridis* ?

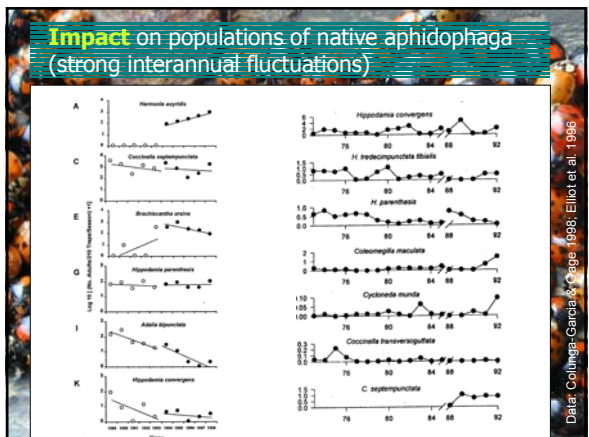
Two investigation levels:

1. What kind of habitat will *Harmonia* colonise? Will it spread into semi-natural areas (e.g. forests, extensive grasslands, heathlands, wetlands)? Etc.
 - results from the *Coccinula* Working Group
2. Will it have an adverse impact on native aphidophaga? Will it really modify the structure of aphidophagous communities? Will it cause species decline or species displacement? Will it reduce the efficiency of aphid control?
 - need for a quantitative & well standardised survey

Impact on populations of native aphidophaga

2.1. Need for quantitative baseline data (ladybird densities, guild structure, etc.) before *Harmonia*'s arrival. Do we have such data?

- results from the *Coccinula* working group (but sampling is often not standardised !)
- results from surveys in orchards and organic cultures ?
- results from specific studies (theses, etc.) ?
- other results ?



Impact on populations of native aphidophaga

2.2 How to fund a standardised and quantitative ladybird survey in the following years ?

- international funding (EU) ?
- Science Policy Office (BE) ?
- regional funding (nature conservation) ?
- other funding sources ?