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REARING CERATINA CUCURBITINA (ROSSI) (HYMENOPTERA, ANTHOPHORIDAE, XYLOCOPINAE)

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The genus Ceratina Latreille was a long time considered as exclusively solitary (Michener, 1974) but presocial behaviours and existence of rudimentary castes are observed in several species (Michener, 1985; Sakagami & Maeta, 1987a, 1987b, 1989). In order to study social phenomens, the authors have tried to rear Ceratina cucurbitina, the most frequent species of small carpenter bee in Europe. Nests collected in nature were placed into cages, in conditioned room. The authors have determined the optimal ecoclimatic, feeding and nidification conditions. The fly is observed between 20 and 36°C. However, between this extrema, the activity appears only in increasing temperature. The minimal illumination to observe activity is between 175 and 700 LUX. The light type seems indifferent (presence or absence of U.V. and I.R.). The copulation occurs mainly in decreasing atmospheric pressure.

References


