

INDEX

Resum	
Resumen	
Abstract.....	
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1. The importance of ants	3
1.2. Ants in agricultural ecosystems.....	5
1.2.1. Ants in citrus agroecosystems.....	8
1.3. Mechanisms underlying the increases of the herbivore populations induced by ants.....	11
1.3.1. Sanitation and stimulation of the herbivores.....	11
1.3.2. Interference of ants with the activity of the natural enemies	12
1.3.3. A new hypothesis: impact of ants on the physiological state of the natural enemies?	15
1.4. Ants in Mediterranean citrus	16
1.4.1. Species composition	16
1.4.2. Impact on citrus pests.....	21
1.4.3. Impact on natural enemies	21
1.5. Justification and objectives.....	22
Chapter 2: Ants affect the infestation levels but not the parasitism of honeydew and non-honeydew producing pests in citrus	25
2.1. Introduction.....	29
2.2. Material and Methods.....	33
2.3. Results	40
2.4. Discussion.....	52

2.5. Acknowledgements.....	59
Chapter 3: Ants in citrus: impact on the abundance, species richness, diversity and community structure of predators and parasitoids	61
3.1. Introduction.....	65
3.2. Material and Methods	69
3.3. Results.....	74
3.4. Discussion.....	84
3.5. Acknowledgements.....	92
3.6. Supplementary material	92
Chapter 4: Ants impact the energy reserves of natural enemies through the shared honeydew exploitation.....	99
4.1. Introduction.....	103
4.2. Material and Methods	108
4.3. Results.....	114
4.4. Discussion.....	121
4.5. Acknowledgements.....	125
Chapter 5: General discussion.....	127
Chapter 6: Conclusions.....	133
References.....	139