

## ÍNDICE GENERAL

ÍNDICE GENERAL.....	3
ÍNDICE DE FIGURAS .....	6
ÍNDICE DE TABLAS .....	8
RESUMEN GENERAL .....	9
ABSTRACT .....	12
<b>Chapter I:</b> General introduction.....	15
1.1 Introduction .....	15
1.2 Thesis aim, structure and outline .....	20
1.3. References.....	22
<b>Chapter II:</b> Expression differences in <i>Aphidius ervi</i> (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) females reared on different aphid host species .....	27
2.1 Abstract.....	28
2.2 Introduction .....	29
2.3 Materials and Methods .....	30
Insect collection and rearing .....	30
RNA collection and sequencing.....	31
Illumina sequence processing and transcriptome assembly.....	33
Annotation and functional gene classification .....	34
Differential gene expression analysis .....	34
2.4 Results .....	35
<i>Aphidius ervi</i> reference transcriptome assembly .....	35
Sequence annotation .....	37
Transcriptomic differences between tissues and function of transcripts with different expression levels .....	37
Transcriptomic differences between parasitoid lines and function of transcripts with different expression levels .....	39
Identification of putative chemosensory and olfaction-related genes.....	41
Cellular signaling and neural development.....	42
2.5 Discussion.....	51
2.6 Acknowledgements .....	54

2.7 References.....	55
<b>Chapter III:</b> Chemosensory genes may be involved in the formation of host fidelity in the parasitoid wasp <i>Aphidius ervi</i> (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) .....	61
3.1 Abstract.....	61
3.2 Introduction .....	62
3.3 Materials and Methods .....	65
Parasitoid collection and rearing.....	65
Reciprocal transplant experiments .....	66
RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis .....	67
Bioinformatic and gene expression analysis of OBPs and ORs .....	67
3.4 Results .....	70
OBPs and ORs gene expression differences between parasitoids reared on natal and non-natal hosts.....	70
OBPs and ORs expression differences between parasitoids reared on different natal hosts but transplanted to the same aphid host .....	72
OBPs and ORs expression differences between field and inbred parasitoids reared on natal and non-natal hosts .....	72
3.5 Discussion.....	76
Putative role of odorant binding proteins in parasitoid wasps .....	77
Putative role of odorant receptors during aphid host recognition by parasitoid wasps .....	78
Expression levels for OBPs and ORs between field and inbred <i>A. ervi</i> populations.....	81
3.6 Concluding remarks.....	83
3.7 Acknowledgements .....	83
3.8 References.....	84
<b>Chapter IV:</b> Draft genome of the endoparasitoid wasp <i>Aphidius ervi</i> and its utility to provide insights into the dynamics of biological control .....	91
4.1 Abstract.....	91
4.2 Introduction .....	92
4.3 Material and Methods.....	94
Aphid and parasitoid rearing.....	94
Parasitoid collection, sample preparation and sequencing.....	95
Library processing and genome assembly .....	96
Gene prediction, annotation and comparative functional analysis .....	97
DNA Methylation patterns analysis and detection of annotated DNA methyltransferases ....	99

4.4 Results .....	100
<i>Aphidius ervi</i> gene prediction and annotation.....	103
Identification of putative chemosensory and olfaction-related genes within the <i>A. ervi</i> genome .....	104
Lack of DNA methylation in <i>Aphidius ervi</i> .....	106
4.5 Discussion.....	109
4.6 Concluding remarks.....	111
4.7 Acknowledgements .....	111
4.8 References.....	112
<b>Chapter V:</b> General Conclusions .....	117
5.1 Host fidelity in an introduced parasitoid wasp .....	117
5.2 Future directions .....	119
5.3 References.....	120
<b>Appendix A:</b> Supplementary material for Chapter II .....	122
<b>Appendix B:</b> Supplementary material for Chapter IV.....	123

## ÍNDICE DE FIGURAS

<b>Figure 1.1.</b> Life cycle of a hymenopteran endoparasitoid wasp on an aphid host (adapted from Turpeau et al., 2011).....	16
<b>Figure 2.1.</b> Sampling design for RNA sequencing and differential expression analysis in the aphid parasitoid wasp <i>Aphidius ervi</i> . A) Parasitoid populations. B) DE analysis between heads and bodies (3 libraries/tissue). C) DE analysis between parasitoid host races.....	32
<b>Figure 2.2.</b> Species distribution of unigene sequences of the aphid parasitoid wasp <i>Aphidius ervi</i> transcripts to other insect species using homologous BLASTx hits and NR-NCBI database. ....	38
<b>Figure 2.3.</b> Gene Ontology (GO) annotations for the reference transcriptome of <i>Aphidius ervi</i> separated by GO categories (Biological process: blue. Molecular function: red. Cellular component: green).....	39
<b>Figure 2.4.</b> Differential GO term distribution between <i>Aphidius ervi</i> bodies and heads (Blast2GO Fisher's exact test with FDR correction). Reference set: full <i>A. ervi</i> transcriptome. Test set: % of sequences associated to GO-enriched terms. A) enriched GO-terms in bodies. B) enriched GO-terms in heads. CC: Cellular Component; MF: Molecular Function; BP: Biological Process. ....	40
<b>Figure 2.5.</b> GO term distribution – Biological Process for genes with different expression patterns between <i>Aphidius ervi</i> libraries.....	50
<b>Figure 2.6.</b> GO term distribution –Molecular function for genes with different expression patterns between <i>Aphidius ervi</i> libraries.....	50
<b>Figure 3.1.</b> Reciprocal transplant experiment of exogamic populations of <i>Aphidius ervi</i> (panels A, B, C, D) and comparison with endogamic populations on the same hosts (Sepúlveda et al., 2017b; panels E, F) .....	69
<b>Figure 3.2.</b> Mean mRNA expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of <i>A. ervi</i> maintained on natal host <i>A. pisum</i> (AP; Nh) or on the non-natal host <i>S. avenae</i> (SA; N-nh) measured by RT-qPCR. ....	71
<b>Figure 3.3.</b> Mean expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of <i>A. ervi</i> maintained on the natal host SA ( <i>S. avenae</i> ; Nh) or on the non-natal host AP ( <i>A. pisum</i> ; N-nh) measured by RT-qPCR..	71
<b>Figure 3.4.</b> Mean mRNA expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of <i>A. ervi</i> maintained in the natal host <i>S. avenae</i> (SA-Natal) or switched from <i>A. pisum</i> to the non-natal host <i>S. avenae</i> (AP-Natal) measured by RT-qPCR.....	73

<b>Figure 3.5.</b> Mean mRNA expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of <i>A. ervi</i> maintained on the natal host <i>A. pisum</i> (AP-Natal) or switched from <i>S. avenae</i> to the non-natal host <i>A. pisum</i> (SA-Natal) measured by RT-qPCR.....	73
<b>Figure 3.6.</b> Mean expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of outbred (AP-exogamic) and inbred (AP-endogamic) <i>A. ervi</i> maintained on their natal host <i>A. pisum</i> (AP), measured by RT-qPCR.. ..	74
<b>Figure 3.7.</b> Mean expression levels of ORs and OBPs from heads of outbred (SA- exogamic) and inbred (SA-endogamic) <i>A. ervi</i> transplanted from the natal host <i>A. pisum</i> onto the non-natal host <i>S. avenae</i> (SA), measured by RT-qPCR.. ..	74
<b>Figure 4.1.</b> Top-Hits species distribution (calculated from BLAST hits from NR database).....	102
<b>Figure 4.2.</b> Gene ontology (GO) classification of <i>A. ervi</i> predicted genes, Biological Process .....	104
<b>Figure 4.3.</b> Gene ontology (GO) classification of <i>A. ervi</i> predicted genes, Molecular Function. ....	105
<b>Figure 4.4.</b> Gene ontology (GO) classification of <i>A. ervi</i> predicted genes, Cellular Component. ....	105
<b>Figure 4.5.</b> Distributions of CpG <sub>O/E</sub> calculated in gene coding sequences for 4 hymenopteran species with ( <i>Apis mellifera</i> ) or without ( <i>Polistes dominula</i> and <i>Microplitis demolitor</i> ) DNA methylation compared to CpG <sub>O/E</sub> calculated in <i>Aphidius ervi</i> .....	108
<b>Supplementary figure 2.1.</b> Sample correlation matrix heatmap for all <i>A. ervi</i> libraries.....	122

## ÍNDICE DE TABLAS

<b>Table 2.1.</b> Summary of <i>Aphidius ervi</i> transcriptomic libraries and assembly statistics .....	36
<b>Table 2.2.</b> Top 20 genes with differential expression patterns between <i>Aphidius ervi</i> - AP and <i>A. ervi</i> - SA on two different tissues (heads and bodies).....	43
<b>Table 2.3.</b> Expression patterns of transcripts involved in chemoperception between <i>Aphidius ervi</i> populations reared on their natal hosts .....	51
<b>Table 3.1.</b> <i>OR</i> and <i>OBP</i> homologs from <i>Drosophila spp</i> found in <i>A. ervi</i> using BLAST, and odorants eliciting responses. ....	75
<b>Table 3.2.</b> Nucleotide sequences of primers employed in qPCR in this study .....	75
<b>Table 4.1.</b> <i>A. ervi</i> gene annotation statistics derived from MAKER2. ....	102
<b>Table 4.2.</b> Statistics from functional annotation of <i>A. ervi</i> protein coding sequences .....	103
<b>Supplementary table 2.1:</b> genes up-regulated between <i>A. ervi</i> populations .....	122
<b>Supplementary table 2.2</b> Final number of reads from each library used in DE analysis.....	122
<b>Supplementary table 4.1</b> assembly statistics for <i>A. ervi</i> genomes .....	123