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Rapid on-site identification of the biocontrol agent of the Asian chestnut gall wasp

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16 Abstract In classical biocontrol programs a rapid and correct identification of the introduced 17 antagonist is a key issue during both the release and establishment monitoring phases. It is often difficult to distinguish morphologically cryptic species or immature stages, and, in this case, an 18 19 accurate diagnosis can be provided by molecular diagnostic methods. Among the conventional 20 and real-time PCR based methods, loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) is a 21 particularly suitable technique as it allows a rapid amplification of target DNA directly in the 22 field. During the program implemented in Italy against the Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp (ACGW) 23 Dryocosmus kuriphilus, we developed a real-time LAMP assay, combined with a simple DNA extraction, for rapid in-field identification of larvae, pupae and adults of the biocontrol agent, 24 25 the parasitoid Torymus sinensis. Validation of the assay comprised adults as well as preimaginal 26 stages of parasitoids obtained from ACGW galls collected from different localities and results 27 confirmed the effectiveness of the LAMP assay to rapidly and specifically identify the target

parasitoid in the field. This assay will be a valuable tool for quick on-site checking of theparasitism rate.

Key words: *Torymus sinensis*, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, LAMP (Loop Mediated Isothermal
 Amplification), ACGW, biocontrol, parasitism rate,

32 Introduction

- 33 The measure of the success of classical biocontrol programs is largely determined by
- 34 whether and to what extent the target pest's density changes after the establishment of
- 35 introduced natural enemies (Guit, Wratten, & Barbosa, 2000; Hoddle, 2004; Mahr,
- 36 Whitaker, & Ridgway, 2008). Identification, preliminary safety testing and release of
- 37 control agents are undoubtedly matters of great concern (Van Driesche & Hoddle,
- 38 2000). Nonetheless, once the agent is approved for release, an important issue is
- 39 quantifying post-release the effectiveness of parasitoids and predators in reducing pest
- 40 abundance (Stiling & Cornelissen, 2005; Furlong & Zalucki, 2010). To objectively
- 41 assess the effectiveness of biocontrol in terms of costs and benefits relative to
- 42 conventional control, standardized measures of success are needed in post-release

43	surveys repeated over time (Sweetman, 1935; Van Driesche & Hoddle, 2000). The
44	evaluation of parasitism rate can be performed following 'rearing' or 'dissection'
45	methods applied to field-collected insects or plant material if host species feed in
46	concealed or semi-concealed situations (i.e. leaf miners, gallmakers, borers). The former
47	method can take a long time and could be delayed by many factors (i.e. diapause,
48	weather conditions), whereas the latter is relatively quick and can guide decisions on
49	whether more or different agents should be released (Day, 1994; Guit et al., 2000).
50	Whichever method is adopted, a correct identification of the parasitoids obtained
51	is the critical step in the evaluation phase of the biocontrol program implemented, as it
52	is a decisive factor when assessing the efficacy and host specificity of control agents
53	and their possible interactions with the pest/native natural enemy complex (Delucchi,
54	Rosen, & Schlinger, 1976; Agustí et al., 2005; Gariepy, Kuhlmann, Gillott, &
55	Erlandson, 2008). Strong support in systematics and taxonomy is essential to correctly
56	identify parasitoids at the species level (Van Driesche & Hoddle, 2000). However, using
57	morphological features to distinguish closely related taxa or members of cryptic species
58	complexes is often difficult, if not impossible, especially for immature stages (Dawah &
59	Rothfritz, 1996; Agustí et al., 2005; Mathé-Hubert, Gatti, Poirié, & Malausa et al.,
60	2013). Several molecular diagnostic methods that have been developed and largely
61	implemented over the last 20 years can assist, complement and even replace
62	morphologically based approaches (Agustí et al., 2005; Gariepy et al., 2008; Jenkins,
63	Chapman, Micallef, & Reynolds, 2012).
64	In particular, the loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) is based on
65	specific amplification of target DNA without the need for thermal cycling steps, thus
66	allowing reactions to be performed in a portable heating block (Notomi et al., 2000;

67 Tomlinson, Barker, & Boonham, 2007). The possibility of using LAMP directly in the

field, with short reaction time and no need for a long training period for the staff 68 69 involved in the survey, gives considerable advantages compared to other conventional or real-time PCR based methods (Jenkins et al., 2012; Tomlinson, Dickinson, & 70 71 Boonham, 2010; Tomlinson et al., 2013;). As the DNA polymerase in LAMP reactions is not influenced by the co-presence of inhibitors or non-target DNA (Kogovšek et al., 72 73 2015; Lenarčič, Morisset, Mehle, & Ravnikar, 2013; Notomi et al., 2000) crude DNA extracts can be used, thus increasing the usefulness and portability of the method in the 74 field (Danks & Boonham, 2007). 75 The Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp (ACGW) Dryocosmus kuriphilus Yasumatsu 76 (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae), native to China is an invasive species and included in the 77 78 quarantine list of European Union (EC, 2000). After being accidentally introduced into Japan, Korea, North America, and Nepal (in the forties, fifties, seventies, and nineties, 79 respectively), it arrived in north-western Italy in 2002 and then spread rapidly 80 throughout Italy and several European countries (Slovenia: 2005; France: 2005; 81 Hungary and Switzerland: 2009; Spain, Croatia and the Netherlands: 2010; Czech 82 83 Republic: 2012; Austria and Germany: 2013; Portugal and Turkey: 2014; United Kingdom: 2015; Belgium: 2016) (EPPO, 2015; EPPO, 2016a, 2016b). ACGW 84 85 represents a very serious threat to chestnut stands in all the invaded countries as high numbers of galls on leaves and shoots reduces tree vigour and severely affects nut and 86 87 timber productivity (Kato & Hijii, 1997; Maltoni, Mariotti, & Tani, 2012; Battisti, Benvegnù, Colombari, & Haack, 2014). Management of ACGW infestations, after the 88 unsuccessful attempts to reduce pest densities by other measures, currently relies only 89 on classical biological control methods (Moriya, Inoue, & Mabuchi, 1989). The release 90 of the parasitoid Torymus sinensis Kamijo (Hymenoptera: Torymidae) from the native 91

92 region of the gall wasp has been shown to reduce damage below a tolerable threshold

- level in Japan (less than 30%; Gyoutoku & Uemura, 1985; Moriya, Shiga, & Adachi,
- 2003) as well as in the USA, where a decline of pest population density has been also
- 95 reported (Cooper & Rieske, 2007). In Italy, adults of *T. sinensis* were released in the
- 96 first introduction site of ACGW starting in 2005, and later in all the other invaded areas
- 97 (Quacchia, Moriya, Bosio, Scapin, & Alma, 2008; MiPAAF, 2010).
- 98 We developed a real-time LAMP assay combined with a crude DNA extraction
- 99 for the identification directly in the field of larvae, pupae and adults of *T. sinensis*. The
- 100 method was developed in order to quickly identify the preimaginal stages of the
- 101 parasitoid and to evaluate the parasitism rate, so as to aid prompt management decisions
- 102 regarding possible further releases of the parasitoid. Moreover, it may help the quality
- 103 assessment of the parasitoid rearing program.

104 Materials and methods

- 105 The real-time LAMP assay was first developed using pure DNA extracted from voucher
- 106 specimens by a salting out protocol. Then, the assay was validated using crude DNA
- 107 extracted with a simple procedure from adults emerged from the galls (rearing method)
- 108 and from preimaginal stages obtained by dissecting collected galls from the field.

109 Insect material

- 110 For the LAMP protocol development, 13 T. sinensis, 29 other chalcid adult parasitoids
- belonging to the same genus, family, and superfamily (21, 1, and 7 species,
- 112 respectively; Table 1) as well as two D. kuriphilus were used as voucher specimensfor
- 113 molecular characterization . All the specimens were stored in 70% alcohol after their
- 114 emergence from chestnut or oak galls (i.e. *T. geranii* Walker emerged from galls of
- 115 Biorhiza pallida Olivier) collected in pure or mixed chestnut stands inVeneto (Crespano

del Grappa - TV), Piemonte (Avigliana - TO), and Campania (Serino - AV, Sicignano
degli Alburni - SA) regions.

Validation of the LAMP protocol was first tested on 30 adults of T. sinensis and 118 119 15 adults of other native chalcid parasitoids belonging to Torymidae (Megastigmus dorsalis Fabricius and Glyphomerus stigma Fabricius), Eurytomidae (Eurytoma 120 121 pistaciae Rondani and E. brunniventris Ratzeburg) and Eupelmidae (Eupelmus urozonus Dalman, E. annulatus Nees, E. rostratus Ruschka). Three adults of D. 122 123 kuriphilus were also tested. All these specimens emerged from chestnut galls collected during the summer and winter at the rearing centre of the Veneto Region (Crespano del 124 Grappa); G. stigma emerged from galls of Diplolepis rosae Linnaeus. In addition, a 125 126 sample of 10 to 13 adults of T. sinensis, obtained from each of 8 Italian and 1 French population were further tested (N=101), including a few individuals from Korea (N=6) 127 and Japan (N=3). All the specimens were first identified using various diagnostic 128 morphological characters (Kamijo, 1982; de Vere Graham & Gijswijt, 1998). 129 130 The LAMP assay was then tested on larvae and pupae of the populations for which they were available (Table 2). At least 1,000 galls were collected during late 131 132 winter at 7 Italian release sites in 4 regions (Veneto, Valle d'Aosta, Piemonte, Liguria) 133 and one site in France. After collection, a subsample of 300 galls for each site was stored at 4° C to arrest the development of gall inhabitants at larval or pupal stages. 134 135 Galls randomly chosen from each subsample were then dissected. Dissections were carried out until between 12 and 16 immature individual parasitoids were obtained and 136 the number dissected recorded. 137

138 DNA extraction

139 Two types of DNA extractions were performed. For the LAMP assay development, a140 pure DNA extraction was carried out on 42 adult parasitoids (Table 1) using a salting

141	out protocol (Patwary, Kenchington, Bird, & Zouros, 1994). Conversely, for the LAMP
142	assay validation, a crude DNA extraction was performed following a simple protocol
143	intended for applications under field settings on: i) the adult specimens reported in the
144	previous section i.e. 30 adults of <i>T. sinensis</i> and 18 adults of other chalcid parasitoids;
145	110 adults of T. sinensis from 11 different populations; ii) the immatures dissected from
146	galls (Table 2). Whole insect bodies were individually placed into 1.5-ml Eppendorf
147	tubes containing 200 μl of double-distilled water and ground with a plastic sterile pestle
148	to obtain a crude homogenate. Tubes were then shaken by hand without vortexing for
149	few seconds before taking the volume to be tested. Approximate DNA concentrations
150	were determined at 260 nm using the Nano-drop 2000 spectrophotometer (Nano-drop
151	Technologies, Wilmington, DE, USA).

152 Design of LAMP primers

Two sets of primers satisfying LAMP requirement criteria were designed (Notomi et al., 153 2000). A first set of primers, specific for T. sinensis, was developed on the sequences of 154 155 internal transcribed spacer 2 (ITS2) in the nuclear ribosomal region. Primers were 156 designed on the T. sinensis sequences retrieved from GenBank (accession numbers AB200273, AB200274, and AB200275), and aligned with homologous sequences of 157 other species of Torymidae and Pteromalidae (i.e., T. geranii, GenBank accession 158 number AB200280; T. flavipes, GenBank accession numbers HM574233 and 159 HM574237; Mesopolobus xanthocerus (Thomson), GenBank accession number 160 HM573972). In preliminary analyses (results not shown), some falsepositives with T. 161 162 affinis were obtained when loop primers only were included in the reactions, although the use of these primers is usually recommended to improve both the specificity and the 163 speed of the reaction (Nagamine, Hase, & Notomi, 2002). These primers were excluded 164 from the primer set. 165

166	To avoid falsenegative results (Tomlinson et al., 2010), and to check quality of
167	both DNA and reagents, a set of primers, hereafter referred to as external amplification
168	control (EAC) primer set (D'Agostino, 2013), was designed on the 28S region of other
169	chalcid wasps using sequences retrieved from Munro et al. (2011). Preliminary tests
170	showed a wider inclusiveness of this primer set. Nonetheless, this was not a matter of
171	concern because the purpose of the design was to ensure reliability of the assay by
172	excluding the presence of inhibitors or suboptimal reaction conditions (i.e. not sufficient
173	DNA template).
174	All the sequences alignments were edited using the ClustalW algorithm in the

175 software MEGA, version 6, (Tamura, Stecher, Peterson, Filipski, & Kumar, 2013).

176 Primers were designed using LAMP Primer Explorer software (version 4; Fujitsu

177 System Solutions Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and synthesized by Invitrogen.

178 LAMP development and diagnostic performance

The DNA extracted by the salting out method from the specimens listed in Table 1 was 179 used for the evaluation of the sensitivity and specificity of both the primer sets. The 180 181 reaction mixture for the T. sinensis LAMP test contained 15 µl of Isothermal MasterMix $1\times$ (OptiGene), 0.2 μM of each external primer, 2 μM of each internal primer, and 1 μl 182 of template DNA. The same conditions were used for the EAC assay, with a further 183 addition of two loop primers, 1 µM each. Total volume for both reactions was 25 µl. 184 185 LAMP reactions were performed on a Genie II device (OptiGene). Optimal conditions for LAMP reaction were determined by performing runs in a 186 range of temperatures for different time periods. The identity of amplification products 187 was evaluated in terms of annealing temperature determined through the measure of 188

fluorescence during a slow annealing step $(0.05^{\circ}C/s)$ starting at 98° and ending at 84°C.

190	The sensitivity of both the assays was tested through 10-fold serial dilutions of
191	template DNA in double-distilled water, starting from a higher concentration of 10 ng
192	μl^{-1} to a lower concentration of 100 fg $\mu l^{-1}.$ Each run contained double-distilled water as
193	negative control (Tomlinson et al., 2013). The specificity of both the T. sinensis and the
194	EAC primer sets was evaluated using the specimens reported in Table 1. Both
195	sensitivity and specificity were tested on pure DNA extracted by the salting out method.

196 Validation of LAMP with crude DNA

Evaluation of the specificity of the LAMP assay on crude DNA was first performed on 197 the 48 specimens (30 adults of T. sinensis and 18 adults of other chalcid parasitoids) 198 emerged at the rearing centre. Reactions were repeated three times for each specimen to 199 200 confirm the diagnosis. For those specimens that were not amplified by the T. sinensis-201 specific set of primers, a EAC primer set test was performed in order to ensure quality 202 of both DNA and reagents. The assay was then tested on a further 110 adults of T. sinensis belonging to 11 different populations and 80 larvae and 25 pupae obtained by 203 the dissection method from 8 populations (Table 2). 204 205 To confirm the results obtained by LAMP assays, 20 specimens (10 immature 206 and 10 adults), randomly selected among the above mentioned 263 samples, were identified by sequencing of the DNA barcode region (Hebert, Cywinska, & Ball, 2003). 207 For each specimen, 100 µl of the crude DNA extract was used for a further DNA 208 extraction using Qiagen DNeasy Plant mini kit (Valencia, CA, USA). The DNA 209 obtained was then eluted in 50 µl of AE buffer and directly used to amplify and 210 sequence the barcode region of the cox1 gene (Hebert et al., 2003), using the universal 211 primers and the amplification condition as reported in Folmer, Black, Hoeh, Lutz, & 212 213 Vrijenhoek (1994). PCR products were checked through electrophoresis on 1.0% agarose gels stained with SYBR® (Invitrogen) and then purified using exonuclease and 214

215 antarctic phosphatase (GE Healthcare). PCR products were then sequenced at BMR

216 Genomics Service (Padova, Italy).

217 Statistical analyses

- 218 Throughout the text, temperature values are expressed in degrees Celsius and time
- 219 values in minutes and seconds. All average values are reported as mean \pm standard
- 220 deviation (SD), unless otherwise specified.
- 221 One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by a Tukey's HSD (Honest
- 222 Significant Differences) test, was used to compare the mean annealing temperatures of
- the 110 T. sinensis adults from the eleven different populations. An alpha level of 0.05
- 224 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were performed using
- 225 STATISTICA, version 8 (Statsoft Inc., Tulsa OK, USA).

226 Results

227 LAMP primers design

The designed *T. sinensis* primer set contained twoexternal primers (TS_F3 and TS_B3) and two inner primers (TS_FIP and TS_BIP).The EAC primer set was composed of two external (CH_F3 and CH_B3) and two internal primers (CH_FIP and CH_BIP), with the addition of two loop primers (CH_F1 and CH_BL) in order to accelerate the amplification reaction. Primer sequences for both the primer sets are reported in Table 3.

234 LAMP development and diagnostic performance

- 235 Optimal temperature and running time for both the LAMP reactions were an isothermal
- 236 condition of 67°C maintained for 19 and 23 min. for the T. sinensis and the EAC LAMP
- 237 assays, respectively. The specificity and the sensitivity of both primer sets and the

diagnostic performance of the LAMP assays were then tested on the DNA extracted bythe salting out method.

Specific primers worked exclusively on *T. sinensis* DNA and did not amplify any of the non-target sequences. All the 13 *T. sinensis* DNA samples were correctly identified while EAC primers amplified all the 44 DNA samples analyzed. Amplification was not observed in the negative control reactions. The serial dilutions of DNA tested with both the assays, showed an analytical sensitivity of 10 pg μ l⁻¹. The annealing temperatures of the amplification products were 88.82 ± 0.09°C and 87.51 ± 0.18°C for *T. sinensis* and EAC LAMP assays, respectively.

247 Validation of LAMP with crude DNA

248 Validation of the method on 48 adult parasitoids showed that 30 T. sinensis individuals were positive to the T. sinensis assay, whereas all tested insects were positive to the 249 250 EAC assay. Average positive reaction times of crude DNA were $16:34 \pm 00:42$ for T. sinensis assay, and 14:14 \pm 1:43 for EAC assay. Annealing temperatures were 88.98 \pm 251 0.06° C and $87.40 \pm 0.10^{\circ}$ C for *T. sinensis* and EAC assays, respectively. There was a 252 slight variation in the starting average DNA concentrations of crude extracts (1.17 \pm 253 0.17 ng μ l⁻¹), reaction times (16:28 ± 1:47), and mean annealing temperatures (88.84°C 254 ± 0.14 °C) among the 11 populations of *T. sinensis*. Interestingly, the mean annealing 255 temperature of *T. sinensis* adults differed significantly among populations ($F_{(10, 99)} =$ 256 257 2.04, p < 0.05), with the Korean specimens showing the highest average value, although the Tukey's test was not significant for any pair of means. 258 Forpreimaginal stages (larvae and pupae) from 8 available populations (Table 2), 259

260 average DNA concentrations of crude extracts, reaction times, and mean annealing

261 temperatures were: 2.72 ± 1.27 ng μl^{-1} , $16:47 \pm 1:40$, $88.84^{\circ}C \pm 0.17^{\circ}C$ for larvae; 2.05

262 ± 0.07 ng μl^{-1} , 15:21 \pm 1:52, 88.76°C ± 0.16 °C for pupae. At some sites, it was recorded

a low number of larval samples that generated a positive amplification out of the total
number of samples tested. DNA barcoding of the 20 samples confirmed the accuracy
of the LAMP identification. Positive LAMP results always corresponded to *T. sinensis*,
whereas negative results corresponded to species belonging to the genera *Eupelmus*(Hymenoptera: Eupelmidae) and *Mesopolobus* (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae).

268 Discussion

The LAMP assay enabled real-time detection of *T. sinensis*, the biocontrol agent of the ACGW, through a simple procedure designed to give rapid on-site results for samples without the need for time-consuming analyses or rearing in the laboratory. The use of a quick technique, together with the simple equipment required and the possibility to discriminate insect material obtained from various life stages, make the method valuable for making decisionswhen evaluating effectiveness of biocontrol programs directly in the field.

The whole procedure developed in this study, from sample preparation to the 276 evaluation of amplification products, was completed in less than 30 minutes. The 277 specific LAMP primer set showed high specificity to T. sinensis, with no positive 278 reactions when other species were tested. However, we cannot exclude that the primer 279 280 set designed specifically for T. sinensis works for the closely related T. beneficus, which 281 cannot be discriminated on the basis of morphological characters (Yara, 2004). 282 Unfortunately, it has not been possible to retrieve and test any specimen of T. beneficus to better validate the T. sinensis primer set. For this purpose, it would be interesting to 283 look at the possibility to obtain an annealing temperature specific for the DNA region of 284 the target species, as a way to unambiguously identify the samples and, concurrently, to 285 detect possible variants (Ririe, Rasmussen, & Wittwer, 1997). In our case, the Korean 286 287 population showed the highest mean annealing temperature, although this result needs

288	to be supported by a higher number of samples. If confirmed, this result may reveal the
289	occurrence of two different strains of <i>T. sinensis</i> in Korea and Japan, as the European
290	populations came from Japan, given their introduction history (Murakami, Ohkubo,
291	Moriya, Gyoutoku, Kim, & Kim, 1995; Yara, 2004; Quacchia et al., 2008).
292	The diagnostic sensitivity level of the assay was high enough to correctly
293	identify the parasitoid in any of the life stages considered, without the need for complex
294	DNA extraction and quantification. Successful outcomes were easily obtained by
295	simply grinding the insects in double distilled water and by directly adding these crude
296	homogenates to pre-prepared strips containing isothermal field stable reagents. Results
297	were positive when specimens both stored in alcohol and freshly collected were used,
298	demonstrating that even DNA of relatively low purity gives positive amplification
299	products (Huang, Hsu, Haymer, Lin, & Wu, 2009). We found that the negative results
300	were successfully amplified by the EAC primer set, minimizing the risk of false
301	negative results.
302	The samples tested were not sufficient to give reliable estimates of parasitism.
303	However, the proportion of positive larval samples roughly reflects the parasitoid
304	success at the different sites. A higher occurrence of <i>T. sinensis</i> was indeed recorded
305	where the parasitoid was released first. Alternatively, the high proportion of positive
306	pupal samples can be explained by the period of gall collection (i.e. late winter). In this
307	period only <i>T. sinensis</i> occupies the galls as the other parasitoids generally use other
308	hosts for overwintering (Luo, Huang, & Liao, 1987; Shiga, 2009). A proper
309	identification of <i>T. sinensis</i> using a reliable on-site molecular technique is of great
310	importance as the release of the parasitoid is, at present, the only viable long-term
311	management option against D. kuriphilus in the invaded areas (Yara, 2006; Gibbs et al.,
312	2011). Although the biocontrol of ACGW is successful in those areas where <i>T. sinensis</i>

has been introduced (Gyoutoku & Uemura, 1985; Moriya et al., 2003; Cooper & 313 314 Rieske, 2007; Ferracini et al., 2015a), many recently invaded regions have now to deal with this problem (EPPO, 2014; EPPO, 2015). Consequently, a correct identification of 315 316 both preimaginal and adult stages of the parasitoid is fundamental during all the phases of the biological control program (Danks, 1988; Gordh & Beardsley, 1999). This is 317 318 particularly true if we consider that other parasitoid species, such as local oak gall wasp parasitoids, are rapidly recruited as enemies by ACGW once it arrives in a new area and 319 320 that T. sinensis may cause unwanted non-target effects (Aebi et al., 2006; Quacchia et al., 2012; Matošević & Melika, 2013; Panzavolta et al., 2013; Palmeri et al., 2014; 321 Ferracini et al., 2015b). 322 323 The LAMP assay we developed is suitable for diagnostic as well as research use (Lenarčič et al., 2013) as it can be used both for a rapid quality check of the released 324 stock in new areas and a quick in-field monitoring of the parasitism rate of the 325 biological control agent. Moreover, this method bypasses the need for specialist 326 knowledge or a long period of training for the staff involved (Jenkins et al., 2012) 327

328 avoiding, in particular, the long procedure in the morphological identification of

329 preimaginal stages.

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540	region. Biological Control, 36, 15-21.

541 Table 1. Insect material tested for the development of the LAMP assays with

542 pure DNA extracted by the salting out protocol.

Superfamily	Family	Species		Number samples	of	tested
Chalcidoidea	Torymidae	Torymus	sinensis affinis* auratus cyaneus* erucarum favardi * flavipes formosus * geranii notatus scutellaris	13 4 2 1 2 2 2 1 2 4 1		
	Eupelmidae Eurytomidae	Megastigmus Eupelmus Eurytoma	dorsalis urozonus annulatus pistaciae brunniventris	1 1 1 1		
	Ichneumonidae Pteromalidae Ormyridae	Orthopelma Mesopolobus Ormyrus	mediator tibialis nitidulus	1 1 1		

543

544 * Indicates congeneric species of *T. sinensis* emerged from cynipid galls on oak.

- 546 Table 2. Individuals of *T. sinensis* from different populations tested for the validation of
- 547 the LAMP method with crude DNA. For each sample the number of samples that

Country	Region	Site	Larvae	Pupae
France		St. Dalmas de Tende	8/10	2/2
Italy	Valle d'Aosta	Forte di Bard	4/7	5/5
	Piedmont	Avigliana	2/8	3/4
	Liguria	Millesimo	7/11	1/1
	Veneto	Cavaso del Tomba	2/14	-
		San Mauro di Saline	1/12	-
		Pianezze	2/15	-
		Seren del Grappa	2/3	11/13
Total			80	25

548 generated a positive amplification out of the total number of samples tested is reported.

550 Table 3. Primers used for the loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assays.

LAMP assay target	Primer	Sequence $(5' - 3')$
Torymus sinensis	TS_F3	CGCAAGATGGATGAGAGAGAG
	TS_B3	GCAAACAGAGAGCTCCGG
	TS_FIP	TCAAAACACTCACGAGGCGCGTCGC-
		TCGAAACAATGGCG
	TS_BIP	TACGCACACGCACACGCTACTCGAC-
		GCAAACAACACG
Chalcid wasps	CH_F3	GGTGAACTATGCCTGGTCAG
	CH_B3	TTCGCTTTACCAGATGAGACTC
	CH_FIP	CCGACGATCGATTTGCACGTCAGAC-
		GAAGTCAGGGGAAACC
	CH_BIP	ACTGGGTATAGGGGCGAAAGACTAA-
		TCAAGCGAGTGCCAGCTATC
	CH_FL	CGCTACGGACCTCCATCAG
	CH_BL	GAACCATCTAGTAGCTGGTTCC