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[Bacillus thuringiensis toxin \(Cry1Ab\) has no direct effect on larvae of the green lacewing *Chrysoperla carnea* \(Stephens\) \(Neuroptera: Chrysopidae\).](#)

Romeis J, Dutton A, Bigler F

J Insect Physiol 2004 Feb-Mar **50**(2-3):175-83 [[abstract on PubMed](#)][[citations on Google Scholar](#)] [[related articles](#)] [[full text](#)] [[order article](#)]Selected by | [Niklaus Ammann](#)

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PLANT BIOLOGY



New Finding

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Presents results refuting earlier findings suggesting that lepidopteran larvae fed on transgenic maize expressing the cry1Ab gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt-maize) had a negative effect on larvae of the green lacewing predator *Chrysoperla carnea*. The results presented here strongly suggest that *Chrysoperla carnea* larvae are not sensitive to Cry1Ab toxin and that the earlier reported negative effects of Bt-maize are prey-quality mediated rather than direct toxic effects. The authors, therefore, conclude that transgenic maize expressing Cry1Ab poses a negligible risk for *Chrysoperla carnea* larvae, especially given the fact that lepidopteran larvae are not regarded as an important prey for *Chrysoperla carnea* in the field. This means that, after all, the difference between lab and field studies on non-target insects are not really contradicting one another when conducted under realistic conditions and that Bt crops, according to various studies, have only a minor impact on agricultural biodiversity.

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