ABSTRACT

The effects of temperature on the development of *Orius albidipennis* (Reuter) (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae), reared on its prey, *Megalurothrips sjostedti* (Trybom) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), were studied in the laboratory. Nymphal mortality was 87, 48 and 38 % at 20, 25 and 30 °C, respectively. With the exception of first-instar nymphs, percentage mortality was lowest at 25 °C. Pre-oviposition period and longevity decreased with an increase in temperature. Mean daily and total fecundity were 2.1 and 76.4 respectively at 25 °C. The mean developmental period from oviposition to adult eclosion was 27.7, 14.1 and 10.9 days at 20, 25 and 30 °C respectively. There was a linear relationship between temperature and developmental rate (1 /day) of *O. albidipennis*. Lower thermal thresholds were 13.8, 13.5, 12.7, 15.0, 13.8 and 12.5 °C for eggs and nymphal stages 1 to 5, respectively, with the corresponding average degree-day requirement of 46.9, 42.6, 33.3, 29.2, 26.1 and 51.4 days, respectively. The implications of these results for biological control of thrips are discussed.