I-INTRODUCTION

The first and the most important step in the pest control should be aimed at the achievement of classical biological control by the discovery, importation and colonization of new natural enemies from abroad. But at the same time it stresses as always being indispensable, the conservation or protection from adverse factors of established natural enemies and further shows that at times, and as necessary, natural enemy activity can be purposefully aided by man as, for instance, by insectary mass production and periodic field colonization ***(Debach 1979)***.

Biological insect pest suppression-a term preferred to biological control-means the use of living organisms or their products for the population reduction of inseet pest ***(Coppel and Mertins 1977)***. In other term, biological control implies the intervention of man to manipulate natural control factors, e.g. the release of parasites, pathogens and predators ***(Axtell 1979)***.

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exist naturally in some mosquito producing water but do not appear to serve as an effective control. Further studies are needed to determine the best method for taking advantage of the natural control they offer, and also technique should be developed for the mass rearing and dispersible of these predators to augment the control programs of mosquito abatement districts ***(Notestine, 1971)***.

The belostomatid water bug Sphaerodema urinator seems to be the master of aquatic habitats in most places occupied by mosquito larvae and pupae ***(Lee 1969)***. S. urinator is obviously abundant in water bodies rich in grass and vegetation. The existence of S. urinator in such habitats represents an important privilege from the point of view of biological control, since these grass and vegetation form natural shelter and refuge of mosquito larvae and pupae, and thus permits the co-existence of both the predator and its prey in the same area. Another point should be considered in this concern, that S. urinator can live in relatively shallow water collections that represent a considerable part of Culex natural foci in Cairo and its slums ***(Tawfik et al. 1986)***.

Mosquito larvae are the most preferred prey for the bug S. urinator. These findings may highlights the role of this predator in mosquito control programs in Egypt. The ability of S. urinator to feed on other preys, usually associated with mosquito larvae, is an advantage in case of this predator because these alternative preys may provide alternative food when mosquito larvae and pupae are rare or absent ***(Abou El- Ela et al.1996b)***.

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However this work aimed to study some laboratory factors to detect the most favorable conditions for breeding this predator and to study other factors that may affect its role as mosquito predator. Better understanding of these conditions and factors may lead to efficient use of S. urinator in mosquito control programs.