

## INSCET PESTS OF ACACIA NILOTICA

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### ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted in Faisalabad and adjoining areas to explore the insect damaging Acacia nilotica. The survey yielded 41 phytophagous species, of which about 14 appear to be stenophagous. The stenophagous species are: six flower destroyers, viz., Anarsia acaciae Wals., Comibaena cassidara Gn., Pseudosterrha paulula Swinh., Azanus ubaldus Cr., Ceutholopha isidis Zeller and Cryptophilus integer (Heer); two bruchids damaging seeds, viz., Bruchidius sahlbergi Schilsky, Sulcobruchus sp.; two species boring green shoots, viz., Ascalenia callynella Kasy and Gisilia stereodoxa Meyr.; and Cydia sp. making gall in stems. Among these shoot borers are serious pests of Acacia nilotica.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus Acacia contains about 900 species including trees, shrubs and a few herbs. Acacia nilotica is widespread in Pakistan. It is a complex of nine subspecies occurring in Africa, the Middle East, South and South-Western Asia. Ali (1973) has reported five subspecies, viz., hemispherica, cupressiformis, indica, astringens and subalata native to Pakistan. Almost all the subspecies are of great economic value: the wood is hard and durable; the bark and pods are used for tanning; and young shoots and green pods are used for feeding goats and camels. However, in some areas A. nilotica grows widely and is considered a serious weed. Since no work has been done on the insect pests of A. nilotica, a survey was conducted in Faisalabad and adjoining areas to explore the insects damaging it.