

ASSESSMENT OF QUANTITATIVE LOSSES BY GRAM POD BORERS HELIOTHIS ARMIGERA (Hb.) and AUTOGRAPHA NIGRISIGNA (Wlk.) TO GRAM CROP.

NASEER AHMAD, MUHAMMAD RAMZAN AND LIAQATULLAH KHAN
Department of Entomology, University of Agricultural, Faisalabad.

ABSTRACT

Studies revealed 0.26 - 6.99 per cent gram pod damage and 0.09 - 3.79 per cent loss in gram weight due to Heliothis armigera (Hb.) and Autographs migrisigna (Wlk.). Gram pod damage was found to be directly correlated with the temperature.

INTRODUCTION

The low yield of gram crop is attributed to many factors. Among them, the higher incidence of lepidopterous pests particularly noctuid pod borers, viz. Heliothis armigera (Hb.) and Autographa nigrisigna (Wlk.), from early to late pod formation is of considerable importance. The loss in India in gram yield due to H. armigers alone fluctuated between 40 - 50 per cent in Madhya Pradesh 5 as against 6.6 - 10.7 per cent pod damage in the Punjab 2. The pod damage of 4.6 - 15.1 per cent on this account was observed in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh 1. In Hissar (India A. nigrisigna has been recorded as a serious pest of gram at maturity 3, 7.

Considering the importance of gram crop in the country, studies on the assessment of quantitative losses caused by the noctuid pod borers were carried out during 1983 and 1984.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present studies were carried out on the gram crop (Var. AUG 1406) grown in the experimental area of the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The quantum of gram pods damaged and loss in the weight of gram grains on account of noctuid pod borers, A. nigrisigna and H. armigera during March - April, 1983 and 1984 was recorded by examining gram pods at weekly intervals from early infestation to the maturity of the crop. All the damaged and healthy pods on