

STUDY OF RELATIVE RESISTANCE OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF AIR-CURED BURLEY TOBACCO (*Nicotiana Tabacum*, L) TO THE ATTACK OF APHID (*Myzus Persicae* SULZ)

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ABSTRACT

Different varieties of air-cured Burley tobacco showed different responses to the attack of aphid (*Myzus persicae* Sulz) as recorded on the basis of per leaf attack in each variety, Ky-10 was found to be the most resistant variety followed by Ky-16, Ky-12, Burley-21, Burley-37 and Burley-49; where as Burley-4 showed the highest susceptibility. The number of aphids per leaf recorded on these varieties were 111, 188, 191, 201, 242, 321 and 350 respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Tobacco is one of the major cash crop of Pakistan and particularly of N.W.F.P. It contributes to the foreign exchange earning and benefits the growers individually. The use of tobacco is common to all races and all the social conditions. During the year 1974-75 tobacco was grown on 134036 acres which yielded 169.08 million pounds of cured leaf where as in N.W.F.P. the area under tobacco crop was 75800 acres which yielded 100.47 million pounds (Khan *et al*). In world market tobacco from Pakistan gets the lowest price due to its inferior quality. Insects pests and diseases play an important role in deterioration of the quality of tobacco leaf. Survey carried out by a number of research workers indicated that the damage caused by insects pests and diseases may range from 12 to 35 percent (Lal, 1969). Tobacco aphid (*Myzus persicae* Sulz) is one of major pests which attacks tobacco plant from the time of its transplantation till harvest. Damage is done by adults as well as by nymphs which suck the plant sap from all the green parts, especially from the plant leaves. In addition, the aphids also secrete lot of honey-dews, which give rise to the growth of black fungus. As a result of this the vigour of the plant is decreased and the leaves are curled up and exposed to further disease attack (Khan and Ahmad, 1967). Shahid *et al* (1978) studied the

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