

POPULATION DYNAMICS OF WHITE DATEPALM SCALE (*PARLATORIA BLANCHARDI*) AS INFLUENCED BY SOME CULTURAL PRACTICES.

Liaqatullah Khan*, Mohammad Haseeb**,
Agha Shah Hussain*, and Chaudhry Inayatullah***.

* Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Gomal University,
D.I.Khan.

** Scientific Officer, Entomology Research Labs., N.A.R.C., Islamabad.

*** Sustainable Development Advisor, United Nations Development
Programme, Islamabad.

Abstract:

The effect of some cultural practices on the population of White Datepalm Scale was studied. Three levels of each of the irrigation, fertilizer, and pruning were considered. The different levels of cultural practices were non-significant during whole the year except for the month of April to July. Some levels showed significant difference from other levels during this period. It is also obvious that scales population is greatly influenced by the environmental factors.

Introduction:

Datepalm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is one of the major fruit crop of Pakistan. The total area under dates is 41.3 thousand hectares with annual production of 281.6 thousand tonnes (Anonymous, 1990). Dates are the most nutritive, assimilative, and energy producing food. The tree as a whole is also of great value. It is attacked by a number of insect pests but White Datepalm Scale is the most serious pest in Pakistan (Asghar, 1980) and 70% to 80% losses of date fruit are reported due to the attack of this pest (Smirnoff, 1957). The cultural practices are very effective for the control of this notorious pest. It was reported that its population was the highest on plants which were irrigated but were not shaded by taller plants (Iperti and Laudeho, 1969). Pruning in winter reduces population of this pest in the following active season (Haq and Ahmad, 1972; Ghasib, 1973; Siddiq, 1975; and Swair and Ahad, 1984). Therefore, it was planned to observe the effect of some cultural practices on the population dynamics of White Datepalm Scale at Dera Ismail Khan.