

EFFECT OF DIFFERENT SOWING DATES ON THE INFESTATION OF RICE BY RICE STEM BORER

Triporyza incertulus (Walker)

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ABSTRACT

Research work to find out the effect of different sowing dates on the infestation of rice by rice stem borer was conducted at faculty of Agriculture, Gomal university, D.I.Khan. The results revealed that different sowing dates significantly effected the infestation of rice stem borer, biological yield and grain yield of rice. The infestation was significantly less in rice sown on 17th May followed by in rice sown on 27th May, 6th June and 26th June, 1989 in ascending order.

INTRODUCTION

Rice, the staple diet of over half of the world population, is grown successfully over a wide geographical range. It is a crop of warm humid environment conducive to the survival and proliferation of insects.

In Pakistan the rice ranks second to wheat not only as major cereal source for human consumption but an export commodity also. It is cultivated over an area of about two millions hectares, with a total production of more than three millions tonnes. Apart from its importance as food, it provides raw material for a number of industries and serve as an important avenue for employment of a wider sector of population engaged in its production. It thus helps to improve the external balance contributing about 10.69 % of over all foreign exchange earning in the country (Khan and Ahmad, 1988).

Concerted efforts are being made to increase per hectare yield but losses due to the insect pests cause greatly handicap these objectives. In South East Asia 70 species of harmful insects have been recorded on the rice crop, 54 of which are injurious to the crop in West Pakistan y(Aziz *et al.*, 1958). Out of these pest *Tryporyza incertulus* is a serious threat to this crop, destroying 40 - 60 % of the crop every year.

Hussain (1958) stated that damage caused by rice stem borer in Punjab to the early sown rice was 3 - 13 % and 1 - 19 % during the year 1928 - 29 and 1929 - 30