

VARIETAL RESISTANCE AGAINST SUGARCANE BORERS

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ABSTRACT

Five commercial varieties (BL-19, Bl-4, Triton, Pr-1000 and L-113) were grown during 1986-87 and repeated in 1987-88 to assess the varietal resistance against sugarcane borers (Top, stem and root). The study depicted that pest population varied significantly, the population of stem borer was more, followed by root and top borers. Varieties also had significantly different trends for pest population, BL-19, L113 and BL-4 proved to be resistant against borers over PR-1000 and Triton respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane Saccharum officinarum L., is one of the major cash crop of Pakistan. Due to increasing demand for sugar as a result of population increase, area under sugarcane is constantly increasing since independence. Whereas yield per unit area is steadily decreasing for the last few years. Several factors are responsible for low yields of sugarcane, but pest problem (Borers) have resulted in considerable losses in yield.

Varietal resistance is an important component of integrated pest management programme. Hence emphasis should be laid on this aspect instead of relying upon adhoc control strategies. Mushtaq et al. (1), Pruthi and Narayan (2), reported that percentages of bored cane differed greatly according to variety and borer specie.