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PINK BOLL WORM, PECTINOPHORA GOSSYPIELLA (SAUNDERS) DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO AGE OF BOLLS

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ABSTRACT

The age of cotton bolls susceptible to pinkboll worm, Pectinophora gossypiella (Saunders), attack was determined under field conditions at Faisalabad. Bolls of all ages were attacked by Ist-3rd instars. However, 14-21 days bolls were most susceptible to attack.

INTRODUCTION

Cotton plant is reported to be attacked by some 96 insects and spider mite pests in Pakistan [2] from the seedling to the maturity stage, of which the pink boll worm is the most serious. The pink boll worm infest the squares, flowers, but ultimately entering the bolls. Several insecticide application are required to reduce the losses caused by it. It was found in India that 7 fortnightly applications of the synthetic pyrethroid were observed to be effective in reducing boll worm infestation [6].

It was found that the age of bolls to be examined to determine the percent infestation as 12-24 days old [3] and some workers defined the bolls as half grown [5]. A higher larval survival and a greater percent infestation in bolls less than 20 days old was reported [1]. It was concluded that 8-18 days old bolls are most susceptible to pink boll worm attack [4]. The present studied were conducted at Faisalabad in 1986 to determine the relationship of boll age to susceptibility of attack by pink boll worm. These studies form a preliminary background to the broader studies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

200 white flowers (Mutant-189, Cotton variety) were marked at weekly intervals from July 15 to September 2 in an untreated

Scanned with CamScanner