

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE INSECT PEST COMPLEX IN RELATION TO
PHENOLOGY OF PIGEONPEA Cajanus cajan L. AND SOWING TIME

BY

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ABSTRACT

The insect pest populations in relation to crop phenology of pigeonpea and growing season were studied during the period from May to September, 1992 at Eastern University Vantharumoolai. A susceptible variety ICPL 87 was planted four times in 20 m² plots at the spacing of 30 cm x 10 cm at 15 days interval commencing from 6.5.1992. The experiment was conducted under insecticide free conditions.

Insect samples were obtained from 10 plants on the middle portion of plots at the age of 30, 45, 60, 105 days after sowing.

Six insect pest species on pigeonpea were recorded in this experimental area. They are Clavigralla gibbosa, Magalurothrips usitatus, Maruca testulalis, Euchrysops cnejus, and Melanagromyza obtusa.

There were highly significant changes in the population of pests Clavigralla gibbosa and Thrips with crop growth stages and time of sowing.

Clavigralla gibbosa population was at peak at 30 days after sowing and 105 days after sowing. Plots sown in May had significantly higher population of this pest than plots sown in June. Population of thrips was at peak at 30 days after sowing. Plot sown in early part of May had the highest population of thrips.

Although other pests such as Maruca testulalis, Euchrysops cnejus, Melanagromyza obtusa and Lampides boeticus were observed during the period of study none of them shown any significant change in their population during the study.

This data showed that pest incidence is low during Yala (from May to September) and hence there is a high potential to cultivate this crop by adjusting the planting time. However, a study has to be performed during Maha to confirm the results.

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