

ASSESSMENT OF RICE INSECT PESTS AND ITS NATURAL ENEMIES IN RICE FIELD

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KASTHURY THIRUPATHY

A RESEARCH REPORT

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE

REQUIRMENT FOR THE ADVANCE COURSE

IN

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY

FOR THE AWARDS OF

THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

AGRICULTURE

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

EASTERN UNIVERSITY,

SRILANKA

2001

APPROVED BY

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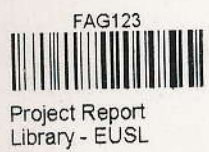
[Signature]

Supervisor
Dr.S.Raveendranath
Dean/ Faculty of Agriculture
Eastern University
Sri Lanka

Date: 31/12/2001

Head, Dept. of Agronomy
Dr.(Mrs) T. Mahendran
Faculty of Agriculture
Eastern University
Sri Lanka

Date: 31/12/2001



Dr. S. RAVEENDRANATH
DEAN
Faculty of Agriculture
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Dr. (Mrs) T. Mahendran
HEAD
Dept. of Agronomy
Faculty of Agriculture
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

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ABSTRACT

A study was carried out in the Agronomy farm of the Eastern University to assess the rice insect pests and its natural enemies (predators and parasitoids) in rice fields treated with and without insecticides, during the period from August to October 2001. For this experiment four plots for each treatment such as with and without insecticides were allocated. Size of the each plot was 9m². Paddy variety BG 357 was used for the study. Insecticides, Carbofuran 3% GR and Tebufenozide were applied against yellow stem borer and leaffolder attack respectively.

Carbofuran 3% GR substantially reduced the insect pests such as rice whorl maggot (*Hydrellia philippina* Ferino), brown planthopper (*Nilaparvata lugens* Stal) than untreated plots. The results showed that number of insect pests namely brown planthopper and rice whorl maggot were significantly ($p < 0.01$) higher in control plots than in treated plots. However, there was no significant difference on the number of yellow stem borer moths between control and treated plots. The number of leaffolder moths was significantly reduced in plot treated with Tebufenozide.

Application of insecticides significantly ($p < 0.01$) reduced the number of natural enemies namely dragonflies, damselflies, spiders and ground beetles. No significant damage was caused to lady bird beetle and wasps.

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