

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOLLWORM INFESTATION
IN THE COTTON CROP AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO DAMAGE AND YIELD



BY

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment

of
the requirement for the degree of
MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
(Economic Entomology)

633.91
M. A
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PROTECTION
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

37456



1991

APPROVAL SHEET

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Abstract

The present work was carried out aiming mainly for contributing more knowledge to the available ecological aspects , based on results obtained from field trials carried out during 1986 up to 1988 seasons in Fayoum, Bahtem and Shalac-an. Additional data of past 13 years for Bahtem, Kaluobia was considered to predict the size of pink bollworm infestation in green bolls depending on the population trends of moths . The preceding and simultaneous effect of certain weather factors on the population dynamics and size of the pink bollworm moths were studied. The results revealed that the presence of strong combined effect of five weather factors covering the changes in the population size of pink bollworm moths. The number and duration of the annual field broods and generations of the pink bollworm Pectinophora gossypiella(Saunders) moths as indicated by sex pheromone trap catches in cotton fields also were studied. The results showed that the Pectinophora gossypiella moths started to appear in the traps during March and continued up to June ,

forming the first or suicidal brood which is characterized by two or three successive peaks. The second brood was commonly occurred between late of June and early of December, and characterized by four distinct over lapping generations (field generations). When the disperssion of the pink bollworm infestations and its effect on the sampling programmes were studied, the analysis of the data denote that the accurate time and place for detecting the true population trends of the pink bollworm in cotton fields may be sampling the green bolls from the lower plant level during July, from the whole plant during August and from the upper and middle plant level during September.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to express his deep gratitude to Prof. Dr. M.M.Hosny , Professor of Economic Entomology , Department of Plant Protection , Faculty of Agriculture , Ain Shams University , who has been so kind to read the manuscript and make valuable comments during the revision of the manuscript.

The author also wishes to extend his deep thanks to Prof. Dr. G.B. El-Saadany , Professor of Economic Entomology at the same Faculty for his general supervision , technical guidance, reading and reviewing the manuscript, and keen interest during the course of this work.

Thanks are also to Prof. Dr. G.M.Moawad , Director of Plant Protection Research Institute , Agricultural Research Center for Supervision kind helps and providing the facilities needed throughout the whole research work.

I would like to thank Dr.M.Salem, Assistant Prof. in Faculty of Agric. Ain-Shams Univ. , Dr. S.M.El.Radwan Head of Cotton Leafworm Res. Div. , Dr. A.A.Hamed and A. M. Hossan, Lectures in Plant Protection Research Institute , Agric. Res. Center.

I am grateful to Mr. A.M.Mehanna , in Meteorological Center at Kobry El-Kobba for his considerable help and skill in computerizing.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

List of Tables.

List of Figures.

	Page
I- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	1
II- INTRODUCTION	1
III -REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	3
1- The Economic Importance of pink bollworm.....	3
2- Sampling methods.....	7
3- Prediction and meteorological factors.....	9
(A)- Effect of Temperature.....	10
(B)- Effect of relative humidity.....	12
(C)- Effect of soil temperature.....	13
(D)- Effect of rainfall and soil moisture.....	14
(E)- Effect of Wind.....	15
(F)- Effect of photoperiod.....	15
4- Effect of sowing dates and other agricultural treatm- ents on the population of pink bollworm.....	16
5- The population dynamics of the pink bollworm.....	18
6- Effect of biotic factors on the population of the pi- nk bollworm diapausing larvae.....	21
7- The use of sex pheromone in IPM programme.....	22
IV- MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	31
(A)- Inspection and Sampling techniques.....	32
(B)- The distribution of pink bollworm infestation on the cotton plant during the fruiting season.....	33
(C)- Monitoring the seasonal activity of pink bollworm moths.....	33
(D)- Description of Delta pheromone trap.....	34
(E)- The pheromone lure.....	34
(F)- Description of the U.V. light trap.....	36
(G)- The relation between the activity of <u>Pectinophora</u> <u>gossypiella</u> (Saunders) moths and certain weather factors.....	39
(H)- Statistical analysis	39
(I)- Prediction of the size of moths populations and the level of infestation.....	40

PART(1)

I- Predicting the size of the pink bollworm infestation in green bolls depending on the population trends of moths....	43
(A)- Bell - shaped curve.....	45
(B)- Sigmoid - shifted right curve.....	45
(C)- Sigmoid - shifted left curve.....	47
(D&E)- Flat shaped curve.....	47
(F)- The peak curve.....	47
1- The relationship between the pink bollworm broods of moths	48
2- The patterns of suicidal emergence curve of moths in relation to the coming infestation.....	56
II- The preceding effect of certain weather factors on the population dynamics of the pink bollworm moths.....	70
III- The simultaneous effect of certain weather factors on the population size of the suicidal emergence moths.....	73
Group I: Factors with a slight or poor effect.....	
Group II: Factors with a moderate effect.....	84
Group III: Factors with pronounced effect.....	84
IV- The combined and real effect of past meteorological factors on the suicidal emergence moths.....	85
(A)- The moths emerged during April and May (y_1)	85
(B)- By using the generation of April, May and June(y_2) in the analysis.....	96
DISCUSSION	107

PART(2)

Effect of three main weather factors on the activity and abundance of <i>Pectinophora gossypiella</i> (Saunders) moths at Fayoum and Bahtem.....	118
I- Fayoum.....	
(a)- Effect of day maximum temperature.....	126

Contents Cont'd.	Page
(b)- Effect of the night minimum temperature.....	127
(c)- Effect of daily mean relative humidity.....	127
(d)- The combination effect of all three weather factors.	130
II- Bahteem.....	
(a)- Effect of Day maximum temperature.....	130
(b)- Effect of night minimum temperature.....	140
(c)- Effect of daily mean relative humidity.....	141
(d)- The combination effect of all three weather factors on the fluctuations in the number of trapped <u>Pecti-</u> <u>nophora gossypiella</u> moths.....	141
The number and duration of the annual field broods and gen- erations of the pink bollworm as indicated by sex pheromone trap catches in cotton fields.....	143
I- Fayoum.....	
The first brood.....	144
The second brood.....	145
The second generation.....	145
The third generation.....	147
The fourth generation.....	147
The fifth generation	147
II- Bahteem.....	
The first brood.....	148
The second brood.....	148
The second generation	149
The third generation.....	149
The fourth generation.....	149
The fifth generation.....	151
Discussion.....	151

Part(3)

1- The disperssion of the PBW populations and its effect.... on the sampling programmes.	153
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Contents Cont'd.	Page
2- Field data on population distribution.....	153
3- Cotton as a unit of study.....	154
4- The sampling programme.....	157
5- Statistical analysis of the data.....	157
6- Smpling methods.....	159
a- Fayoum 1986.....	159
b- Bahteem 1986.....	164
c- Fayoum experiment 1987.....	170
d- Bahteem experiment 1987.....	175
e- SHAlakan experiment.....	180
Discussion	185
SUMMARY.....	
REFERENCES.....	
ARABIC SUMMARY.....	

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Page
1- Dates of sewing cotton in the three localities during 1986 - 1988	32
2- Number of pink bollworm moths captured by light trap through the period of ten years(1978 - 1987)at Bahteem, Kaluobia Governorate.....	44
3- The fluctuation in the number of pink bollworm moths captured during certain period through 13 years(1978 -1990) at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	50
4- The relationship between number of pink bollworm captured moths as indicated by light traps during the selected periods of 13 years (1978 - 1990)at Bahteem, Kaluobia.....	51
5- Number of captured moths during the selected periods along with harmony in trend.....	55
6- The percentages of infestation by <u>Pectinophora gossypiella</u> larvae in green bolls during 13 years(From 1978 to 1990)at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	59
7- Deviation from the general average of 13 years from the suicidal emergence brood and the corresponding infestation in green bolls.....	61
8- The simple correlation values between individual monthly averages of 1 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years (1978 - 1987) at Bahteem, Kaluobia.....	74
9- The simple correlation values between two monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected period of emergence within 10 years(1978-1987)at Bahteem.....	76
10-The simplecorrelation values between three monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of	

List of Tables Cont'd.

Table No.	Page
emergence within 10 years (1978 - 1987) at Bahteem, Kaluobia.....	77
11- The simple correlation values between four monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapping during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years (1978 to 1987)...	78
12- The simple correlation values between four monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years(1978 to 1987) at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	79
13- The simple correlation values between six monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years(1978 to 1987) at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	80
14- The simple correlation values between seven monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years(1978 to 1987) at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	81
15- The simple correlation values between eight monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years(1978 to 1987)at Bahteem,Kaluobia.....	82
16- The simple correlation values between nine monthly averages of 16 physical factors and the number of pink bollworm moths trapped during the selected periods of emergence within 10 years (1978 to 1987) at Bahteem, Kaluobia.....	82
17- The regression values for one weather factor and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	87

List of Tables Cont'd.

Table No.	Page
18- The regression values for two weather factors and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	87
19- The regression values for three weather factors and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	91
20- The regression values for four weather factors and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	91
21- The regression values for four weather factors and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	94
22- The regression values for five weather factors and the number of moths during two successive months (y_1) from 1978 to 1987.....	94
23- The regression values for one weather factor and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	98
24- The regression values for two weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	98
25- The regression values for three weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	100
26- The regression values for three weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	100
27- The regression values for four weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	104
28- The regression values for four weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	104
29- The regression values for five weather factors and the number of moths during three successive months (y_2) from 1978 to 1987.....	106