

Survey for Incidence of *Maruca vitrata* (G.) (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) and its Natural Enemies on Greengram and other Alternative Hosts in Main Pulse Growing Tracts of Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The survey conducted for two consecutive years (2009-10 and 2010-11) in the twenty major greengram growing mandals of Khammam district during *rabi*, at different growth stages of pulses from randomly selected five farmer's fields revealed that, apart from greengram *Maruca vitrata* infestation was noticed on two weed hosts, *Physalis minima* and *Abutilon sp* and cultivated hosts viz., Blackgram, Redgram, Cowpea and Groundnut. The larval incidence was ranged from 5 to 25 larvae per twenty five plants in different growth stages, i.e. bud initiation, flowering and podding stages. The year wise data on flower infestation was ranged from 10- 50% and 10- 45%, whereas pod damage was ranged from 20-38 and 19-32 per cent respectively. Among the surveyed mandals, Khammam Urban (33.25%), Penubally (33.0%), Gundala (32.75%), Kamepally (32.5%), Chintakani (32.0%) and Thirumalayapalem (32.0%) mandals recorded the highest pod damage, whereas the lowest pod damage was recorded in Kalluru (19.5%), Bonakal (22.75%), Singareni (23.75%), Bhadrachalam (24.25%) and Garla (25.0%) mandals. Among the natural enemies, only spiders and coccinellids were recorded. Larval and pupal parasitoids or entomopathogens were not recorded in the *Maruca* infested pulse crops. Among the coccinellids, *Chilomenus sexmaculata* species only observed in Pulses ecosystem. Among the spiders, *Oxyopes sp.*, *Oxyopes javanus*, *Tetragnatha javana*, *Thomisus sp.*, *Chrysilla sp.*, spiders were observed in Blackgram ecosystem. *Neoscona theisi*, *Telemonia dimidata* (male and female), *Curba sp.*, *Salticus sp.*, *Chrysilla sp.*, spiders were observed in pigeonpea (redgram) ecosystem. *Oxyopes sp.*, *Argiopes anasuja* (Thorell) and *Peucetia viridana* spiders were observed in greengram.

Key words : Alternative hosts, *Maruca vitrata*, *Rabi*, Natural enemies.