Seasonal Dynamics of Sucking Insect Pests on *Bt* Cotton as Influenced by Plant Density

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was carried out at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Lam, Guntur to study the influence of plant density on dynamics of sucking insect pests on *Bt* cotton hybrid *viz.,* Tulasi BG-II under unprotected conditions during *kharif* 2012. The population of sucking pests *viz*., leafhoppers, aphids, thrips and whiteflies were significantly affected by plant density and increased with increase in plant density from 11111 plants ha^{-1} (100 cm × 90 cm) to 66666 plants ha^{-1} (100 cm × 15 cm). Among the sucking insect pests only leafhoppers and aphids crossed the ETL at various stages of crop growth period. The peak incidence of leafhoppers (16.10 leafhoppers per three leaves) and aphids (171.25 aphids per three leaves) was observed at 45 DAS and 118 DAS respectively at higher plant density of 66666 plants ha^{-1}. The population of other sucking insect pests such as thrips and whiteflies were below ETL throughout the crop season. The population of natural enemies was found to have direct relation with sucking insect pest population.

Key words : ETL, Natural enemies,Plant density, Sucking insect pests.