

# Survey on Predacious Coccinellids of Pulse Crops Cultivating in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

Ch Sudha Rani, C Sandhya Rani, P V Krishnayya and V Manoj Kumar

Department of Entomology, Agricultural College, Bapatla 522 101, Andhra Pradesh

## ABSTRACT

The survey was conducted in ten major pulses cultivating mandals of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh and collected coccinellid beetles from greengram, blackgram, redgram and cowpea fields of twenty villages (@ two villages per mandal). Coccinellid population varied from vegetative stage to crop maturity stage of all surveyed pulse crops. The peak population of coccinellid adults were found during November month in which all pulse crops were at flowering to pod formation stage. About 999 ladybird beetles were collected, described and identified six species on the basis of morphological characters and genitalia. Among these four species, *Cheilomenes sexmaculata*, *Coccinella transversalis*, *Harmonia octomaculata* and *Micraspis discolor* belonged to subfamily Coccinellinae and tribe Coccinellini, *Scymnus (pullus) coccivora* Ayyar in subfamily Scymninae and tribe Scymnini, *Brumoides suturalis* belonged to subfamily Chilocorinae and tribe Chilocorini of family Coccinellidae. *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* (47%) and *Coccinella transversalis* (44%) were found as the most abundant species in different pulse-ecosystems, while very few population of *Harmonia octomaculata* (5%), *Micraspis discolor* (2%), *Scymnus (pullus) coccivora* (1%) and *B. suturalis* (1%) were observed feeding on aphids in and around Guntur region, A.P.

Key words: Predacious coccinellid species, Pulses, Survey.