Assessment of damage potential of legume spotted pod borer, *Maruca vitrata* (Fab.) in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

The spotted pod borer (*Maruca vitrata*) is a highly destructive insect pest, causing significant damage to a wide range of pulse crops. It occurs throughout pulse-growing areas in the North Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. The pest spreads rapidly and can lead to substantial yield losses if not managed promptly. It damages the leaves, flowers and pods of pulse crops. A roving survey was conducted in pulse-growing areas across three districts (North Coastal region) of Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam, during *rabi*, 2021-22 and 2022-23 to study and assess the damage potential of *M vitrata*. The results revealed that the highest mean per cent leaf webbing (17.81) was recorded in Visakhapatnam district, followed by Vizianagaram district (7.79) and Srikakulam district (6.09). Additionally, the highest mean percentage of flower webbing (31.59) and pod webbing (38.87) were also recorded in Visakhapatnam district, followed by Vizianagaram (25.14 % and 37.24 %) and Srikakulam (15.18 % and 20.12 %) districts, respectively inferring that *Maruca vitrata* caused more damage during reproductive stage than vegetative stage.

Key words: *Flower webbing, Leaf webbing, Pod webbing, Pulses, Roving survey, Spotted pod borer.*