

Original Research Article

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Population Dynamics of *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* on *Bt* and Non *Bt* Cotton and its Correlation with Abiotic Factors

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted during *kharif* 2016 at CCSHAU, Hisar. Transgenic cotton RCH 650 BGII and variety H 1098 i was evaluated for their reaction to cotton leafhopper under unsprayed condition. Observations on cotton leafhopper were recorded at weekly intervals. The highest population of leafhopper was recorded during 33rd standard week on RCH 650 BG II and 32nd standard week on H 1098 i. Leafhopper population were significantly and positively correlated with relative humidity while negatively correlated with temperature on both RCH 650 BG II and H 1098 i. Multiple regression analysis indicated that morning relative humidity alone accounted for 39 per cent variability in leafhopper population on RCH 650 BGII and 40 per cent variability in leafhopper population on H 1098 i, while evening relative humidity accounted for 34 per cent variability in leafhopper population on RCH 650 BGII and 37 per cent variability in leafhopper population on H 1098 i. Minimum temperature, wind speed, rainfall and number of rainy days influenced very less (< 16 %) on leafhopper population.

Keywords

Population dynamics,
Leafhopper, Abiotic
factors, *Bt* cotton,
Correlation, Regression

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Introduction

Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.) is a major commercial crop unanimously designated as “King of Fibres” and has a global significance which is grown for its lint and seed. India is the only country where all four cultivated species (*G. hirsutum*, *G. barbadense*, *G. arboretum* and *G. herbaceum*) of cotton are grown on commercial scale. In India, cotton is cultivated in an area of 12.65 m ha with a production of 37.39 million bales (170 kg/bale) of seed cotton during 2015-16. In Haryana, total area under cotton is 6.39 lakh ha and production is 22.00 lakh bales of 170

kg with productivity 665 kg per ha (Anonymous, 2015). There are a number of causes responsible for low yield of cotton but losses caused by insect-pests are of prime importance. In India 162 insect-pests of cotton have been recorded (Dhaliwal *et al.*, 2008). After introduction of *Bt* cotton sucking pests like leafhopper (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula*), aphid (*Aphis gossypii*), thrips (*Thrips tabaci*) and whiteflies (*Bemisia tabaci*) etc, are responsible for the major threat and destruction of cotton crop (Gahukar, 1997). Sap feeders have been reported to cause loss in the yield to extent of 8.45q/ha in *hirsutum* cotton (Radhika *et al.*, 2006). The losses in

yield due to this pest have been reported to be 18 to 24 per cent (Bhat *et al.*, 1986; Dhawan *et al.*, 1988; Javed *et al.*, 1992; Grover and Pental, 2003).

Leafhopper has become very serious pest in recent years. Thus, it now becomes very necessary to find out the optimal conditions for high population density for taking timely control measures. For developing weather based pest forecasting system, information regarding population dynamics of pest in relation to prevalent weather parameters is required. Keeping the above facts in view, the present investigation was undertaken to study the population dynamics of cotton leafhopper.

Materials and Methods

For studying the population dynamics of cotton leafhopper, transgenic cotton RCH 650 BGII and variety H 1098 i was sown in an area of 180 m² each on 15th may, 2016 at RRS Samargopalpur, Rohtak (Haryana). Observations on population dynamics of nymphs of *A. biguttula biguttula* was recorded throughout the crop season starting from first week of June, 2016 at weekly interval. Leafhopper nymphs were counted on three leaves (upper, middle and lower) on randomly selected thirty plants of each on *Bt* (RCH 650 BGII) and non *Bt* (H 1098 i) till harvesting of crop. The leafhopper population was averaged and expressed as number of nymphs per leaf. The data on weather parameters viz. temperature (maximum and minimum), relative humidity (morning and evening), rainfall, wind speed and rainy days were obtained from Indian Meteorological Department, Pune. The population of leafhopper was correlated with different weather parameter. Correlations of leafhopper population with weather parameters had been presented separately for *Bt* and non-*Bt* cotton. The association between *A. biguttula biguttula* population and different weather parameter

was explained by linear regression models in both cultivars.

Results and Discussion

It is evident from the Table 1 that the leafhopper population initially recorded on 23rd standard week (SW) on *Bt*-cotton, RCH 650 BGII and non-*Bt*, H 1098 i during 2016. *Bt* Cotton, RCH 650 BGII harboured higher leafhopper population from 32nd standard week to 34th standard week. The highest population (2.26 nymphs per leaf) was observed on 33rd SW while lowest population (0.08 nymphs per leaf) was found on 24th SW on *Bt* cotton, RCH 650 BGII. On non-*Bt* cotton, H 1098 i higher population was observed from 30th standard week to 33rd standard week with peak population (1.89 nymphs per leaf) on 32nd SW and lowest population (0.02 nymphs per leaf) on 23rd SW. The population remained below one nymph per leaf during the 23rd to 29th SW and 35th to 38th SW on *Bt* cotton, RCH 650 BGII and non-*Bt* cotton, H 1098 i. Correlations of leafhopper population with weather parameters have been presented separately for *Bt* and non-*Bt* cotton (Table 2). Maximum temperature had significant and negative correlation ($r = -0.580$) with leafhopper population on *Bt* cotton RCH 650 BGII whereas it showed negative and non-significant correlation ($r = -0.487$) on non-*Bt* cotton H 1098 i. Morning relative humidity showed highly significant and positive correlation with leafhopper population on both *Bt* RCH 650 BGII ($r = 0.623$) and non- *Bt* H 1098 i ($r = 0.631$). Evening relative humidity also had significant positive correlation with leafhopper population. Minimum temperature, wind speed and rainfall showed negative and non-significant correlation on *Bt* and non-*Bt*. Whereas, rainy days had positive and non-significant correlation on both the *Bt* RCH 650 BGII ($r = 0.155$) and non-*Bt* cotton H 1098 i ($r = 0.306$) (Fig. 1 and 2).

Table.1 Population dynamics of cotton leafhopper, *A. biguttula biguttula* on cotton hybrids at Rohtak, Haryana during 2015-16

Standard weeks	Weather parameters							Average no. of nymphs/leaf	
	Temperature (°C)		Relative humidity (%)		Wind speed (km/h)	Rainfall (mm)	Rainy days	Cotton hybrid	
	Maximum	Minimum	Morning	Evening				RCH 650 BG II	H 1098 i
23	42.28	29.18	43.20	40.60	6.00	0.00	0	0.14	0.02
24	40.71	27.46	49.00	44.14	7.71	1.14	3	0.08	0.06
25	38.09	28.27	55.00	45.71	8.14	0.86	2	0.42	0.45
26	38.49	29.06	60.29	52.29	7.29	0.00	0	0.43	0.68
27	36.72	27.86	72.11	65.44	6.67	4.44	2	0.23	0.53
28	36.93	28.27	86.14	63.57	6.00	3.29	4	0.40	0.53
29	32.93	28.13	82.71	73.00	7.86	13.43	5	0.48	0.38
30	36.43	27.80	84.43	63.29	6.71	3.00	5	1.79	1.82
31	33.57	28.16	85.43	76.14	6.14	2.14	2	1.55	1.58
32	35.56	27.64	84.43	72.29	6.29	0.29	2	2.19	1.89
33	32.99	26.69	81.86	71.71	5.43	0.86	3	2.26	1.81
34	33.71	27.26	81.71	66.14	5.43	0.14	1	2.02	1.12
35	33.90	26.93	83.86	72.57	4.86	3.29	2	0.90	0.78
36	33.37	24.84	83.71	74.71	9.86	2.14	1	0.82	0.60
37	34.93	25.27	71.86	54.14	7.29	0.00	0	0.83	0.48
38	35.01	25.85	73.57	57.34	6.32	0.00	0	0.68	0.30

Table.2 Correlation of *A. biguttula biguttula* population with weather parameters

Weather parameters	RCH 650 BGII	H 1098 i
Maximum temperature (°C)	-0.580*	-0.487
Minimum temperature (°C)	-0.208	-0.011
Morning relative humidity (%)	0.623**	0.631**
Evening relative humidity (%)	0.585*	0.611*
Wind speed (Km/h)	-0.401	-0.359
Rainfall (mm)	-0.207	-0.124
Rainy days (days)	0.155	0.306
* Indicate significant at p=0.05		
**Indicate significant at p=0.01		

Table.3 Regression models for <i>A. biguttula biguttula</i> incidence (y) in relation to Weather parameters (x)				
Weather parameters (x)	Cotton hybrid			
	RCH 650 BGII		H 1098 i	
	R ²	Regression	R ²	Regression
Maximum temperature (°C)	0.34	y = -0.157x + 6.597	0.24	y = -0.110x + 4.770
Minimum temperature (°C)	0.04	y = -0.126x + 4.413	0.00	y = -0.005x + 0.965
Morning relative humidity (%)	0.39	y = 0.033x - 1.499	0.40	y = 0.028x - 1.254
Evening relative humidity (%)	0.34	y = 0.038x - 1.399	0.37	y = 0.033x - 1.234
Wind speed (Km/h)	0.16	y = -0.243x + 2.593	0.13	y = -0.181x + 2.041
Rainfall (mm)	0.04	y = -0.047x + 1.054	0.02	y = -0.024x + 0.866
Rainy days (days)	0.02	y = 0.070x + 0.810	0.09	y = 0.116x + 0.583

Fig.1 Population dynamics of cotton leafhopper, *A. biguttula biguttula* in relation to weather parameters on H 1098 i

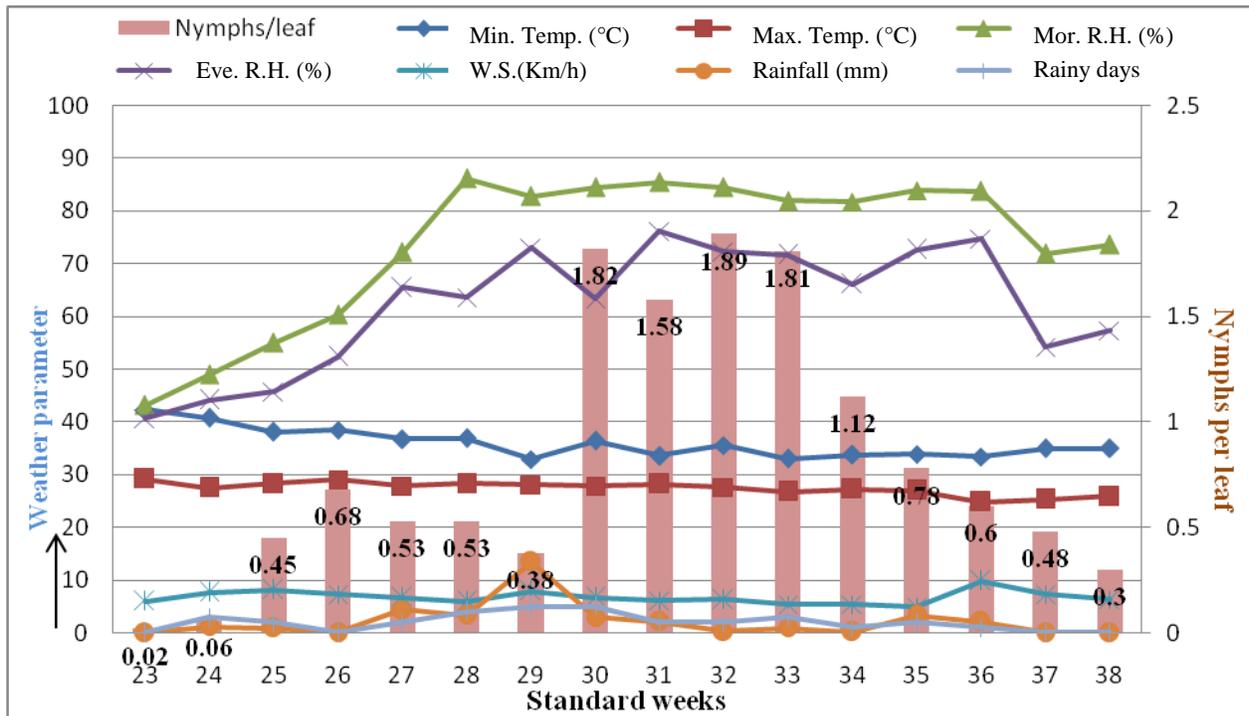
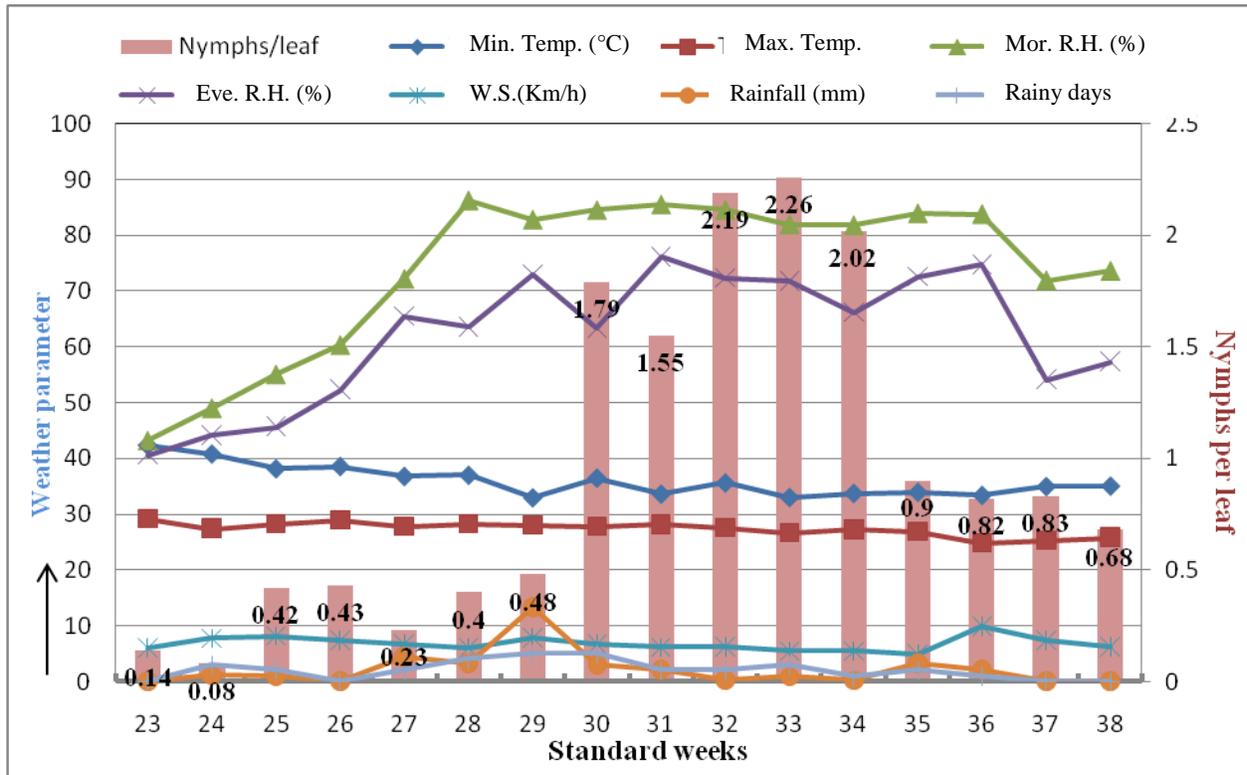


Fig.2 Population dynamics of cotton leafhopper, *A. biguttula biguttula* in relation to weather parameters on RCH 650 BGII



The association between *A. biguttula biguttula* population and different weather parameter was explained by linear regression models in both cultivars (Table 3).

The multiple regression analysis, which explained the average relationship between *A. biguttula biguttula* and weather parameter i.e. the amount of changes in *A. biguttula biguttula* population per unit change in weather parameters, indicated that morning relative humidity alone accounted for 39 per cent variability in leafhopper population on RCH 650 BGII and 40 per cent variability in leafhopper population on H 1098 i, while evening relative humidity accounted for 34 per cent variability in leafhopper population on RCH 650 BGII and 37 per cent variability in leafhopper population on H 1098 i. Maximum temperature accounted for 34 per cent variability in leafhopper population on

RCH 650 BGII and 24 per cent variability in leafhopper population on H 1098 i. Minimum temperature, wind speed, rainfall and number of rainy days were found having very less influence (< 16 %) on leafhopper population except wind speed (16%) on RCH 650 BG II.

In the present work, average number of nymphs of cotton leafhopper, *A. biguttula biguttula* per leaf were found more on *Bt* cotton hybrid RCH 650 BG II as compared to non-*Bt* hybrid, H 1098 i. Ashfaq *et al.*, (2010) also found maximum population of the jassid on transgenic cotton genotypes (VH-255 and I-2086) and the lowest population on non-transgenic genotype CIM-496 (control).

The studies were in accordance with that of Dahiya *et al.*, (2013) who reported that the highest population of leafhopper was recorded on *Bt* genotypes.

The initial appearance of leafhopper population in the present study was noticed in 23rd standard week (June) and peak population of leafhopper was in 32nd and 33rd standard week (August). These results are in corroboration with the findings of Dhaka and Pareek (2008) who reported that the population increased gradually and reached to its peak in 32nd and 33rd week. But, these results are not in conformity with the findings of Selvaraj *et al.*, (2011) they had reported the appearance of the leafhopper in 7th standard week (February) and peak population in 10th standard week (March). The observations were not in agreement with Laxman *et al.*, (2013) and Arif *et al.*, (2006) as they reported incidence of leafhopper was from first fortnight of July to first fortnight of February on both *Bt* and non-*Bt* with peak activity during November. The results of Nagar *et al.*, (2017) were not agreement with present observations as they showed maximum population of leafhopper in 38th standard week. The finding of Chauhan *et al.*, (2017) and Boda and Ilyas (2017) also not conformity with present results as they observed the peak population of leafhopper on *Bt*-cotton in 40th standard week. The observations were not agreement with Nimbalkar *et al.*, (2017) as they found peak population of leafhopper in 41th standard week. The differences may be due to different geographical location as the present studies were conducted in North India while other from different geographical location.

The present studies revealed non-significant difference of leafhopper population in *Bt* and non-*Bt* hybrids. These results are in conformity with the findings of Kumar and Stanley (2006) who had reported non-significant difference among the sucking pest population in the *Bt* and non-*Bt* crops.

Different environmental variables affected leafhopper population in different ways.

Leafhopper population was positively correlated with relative humidity and rainy days while negative correlation with temperature, wind speed and rainfall which corroborates the finding of Laxman *et al.*, (2014) who reported positive correlation between jassid population and relative humidity however, it is contrary to the reports of Iqbal *et al.*, (2010) and Ashfaq *et al.*, (2010) who reported negative correlation of leafhopper population and relative humidity. Kalkal *et al.*, (2015) also reported negative correlation between leafhopper population and rainfall. Boda and Ilyas (2017) found that leafhopper population was negatively correlated with morning and evening relative humidity and rainfall.

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