

## Original Research Article

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## Seasonal Incidence of Major Pests of Brinjal

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### ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted during Rabi 2016 at horticultural farm, college of agriculture, Kolhapur. The incidence of leaf hopper (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula*) was maximum during January, 1<sup>st</sup> Standard Week (SW) and minimum during February (8<sup>th</sup> SW). The incidence of white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*) was maximum during January, 1<sup>st</sup> Standard Week (SW) and minimum during February (8<sup>th</sup> SW). Both these insects showed significant negative correlation with both maximum and minimum temperature while a positive correlation was revealed with mean relative humidity. The incidence of aphid (*Aphis gossypii*) was minimum during November (45<sup>th</sup> SW) and maximum during February (8<sup>th</sup> SW). Both these insects showed significant positive correlation with both maximum and minimum temperature while a negative correlation was revealed with mean relative humidity. The incidence of shoot and fruit borer, *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee was observed during Nov. – Dec. with peak infestation during January (4<sup>th</sup> SW). The percent shoot damage was positively correlated with both maximum and minimum temperature while negatively correlated with mean relative humidity. While percent fruit infestation revealed a non-significant positive correlation with maximum and minimum temperature while negative correlation with mean relative humidity.

#### Keywords

Brinjal, Leaf hopper,  
Aphid, White fly,  
*Leucinodes orbonalis*  
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### Introduction

Brinjal or Eggplant, *Solanum melongena* (Linn.), family Solanaceae is native of India. Brinjal is worldwide known as aubergine or guinea squash which is most popular and principle vegetable crop hence regarded as “King of vegetable”. It is important due to its nutritional, medicinal as well as commercial value. 100 g edible portion of brinjal supply 40 g carbohydrate, 1.40 g proteins, 0.30 g mineral and vitamins viz., A, B and C (Aycord, 1983). It is one of the most common and popular crop grown in India and also other parts of the world.

In the brinjal field, various pests prevail during seedling to harvesting stage and the loss caused by brinjal pests vary from season to season depending upon environmental factors (Gangwar and Sachin, 1981)

The crop is attacked by number of insect pests but the major ones include jassid (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula*), aphid (*Aphis gossypii*), white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*) and shoot and fruit borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee). Pest abundance and distribution changes with abiotic factors and therefore meteorological parameters play a pivotal role in the biology of any pest.

## Materials and Methods

Field experiment was conducted at horticultural farm, college of agriculture, Kolhapur, India situated at 569 m above mean sea level on 16.41<sup>0</sup> North to 74.13<sup>0</sup> East latitude on brinjal variety, Shirgaon Kata in Randomized Block Design (RBD) during *Rabi* season 2016 with three replications. The plot size was 2.70 x 1.80 m<sup>2</sup> with 75 X 75cm<sup>2</sup> spacing. The incidence of selected pests was recorded from sowing to harvesting of the crop.

Observations on the population of sucking pests were recorded on three leaves one each from top, middle and bottom canopy of the five plants selected randomly in each replication. The data on the infestation of fruits were recorded at the time of picking. Fruits from each plot will be harvested separately and examined carefully for the infestation of *L. orbonalis* the fruits showing holes with plugged excreta will be considered as damaged ones. Weekly data on different abiotic parameters were also recorded. Data so obtained were then subjected to statistical analysis for correlation and test of significance.

## Results and Discussion

The data (Table 1, 2 and 3) revealed the abundance of different insect pests in brinjal agroecosystem. The incidence of aphid (*Aphis gossypii*) varied from 2.4-9.6 per five plants and was maximum during 8<sup>th</sup> Standard week (SW) and minimum during November (45<sup>th</sup>SW). The incidence of leaf hopper (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula*) varied from 2.8 – 8.0 per five plants and was maximum during 1<sup>st</sup> Standard week (SW) and goes decreasing February (8<sup>th</sup> SW). The incidence of white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*) was maximum (6.5 /five plants) during January (1<sup>st</sup> SW) and goes decreasing February (8<sup>th</sup> SW). Overall

incidence was more during January. Aphid showed significant positive correlation with both maximum and minimum temperature while negative correlation with mean relative humidity.

Both these insects i.e. leaf hopper and white fly showed significant negative correlation with both maximum and minimum temperature while a positive correlation was observed with mean relative humidity. Significant negative correlation of leafhopper and white fly with temperature in brinjal agroecosystem was also reported earlier (Chandrakumar *et al.*, 2008).

The incidence of Brinjal Shoot and Fruit Borer (BSFB), *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee commenced during Nov. – Dec. with peak shoot infestation during Jan. (4<sup>th</sup> SW). The incidence of fruit borer was noticed during Dec. with peak infestation during Feb. (6<sup>th</sup> SW). The percent shoot damage was positively correlated with both maximum and minimum temperatures while negatively correlated with mean relative humidity. The effect of abiotic factors viz., maximum temperature, minimum temperature and mean relative humidity was significantly correlated with population fluctuation ( $r = 0.2311, 0.0502$  and  $-0.2526$  respectively). While percent fruit infestation revealed a non-significant positive correlation with maximum and minimum temperature and negative significant correlation with mean relative humidity.

Earlier reports also suggest that maximum and minimum temperature and abundance of brinjal shoot and fruit borer showed a positive correlation (Shukla and Khatri, 2010 and Mathur *et al.*, 2012). Many of the earlier workers have also reported the incidence of shoot and fruit borer throughout the year in different regions of South East Asia (Khan and Al-salem, 2007 and Mall *et al.*, 1992).

**Table.1** Population dynamics of sucking pest of brinjal under field condition

Week after transplanting (WAT)	Meteorological week (MW)	No. of Aphids/ leaf	No. of Jassids/ Leaf	No. of Whiteflies/ leaf	Temperature (°C)		Humidity (%)		Average relative humidity (%)
					Maximum	Minimum	Morning	Evening	
1	45	2.4	2.8	2.3	31.20	10.60	68	48	58
2	46	2.9	3.6	3.9	30.80	12.30	73	57	65
3	47	3.1	4.2	4.3	30.40	9.50	76	51	64
4	48	3.7	5.6	4.9	31.40	8.70	86	54	70
5	49	4.0	6.2	3.4	30.50	11.80	85	51	68
6	50	4.6	6.6	5.7	30.60	16.90	81	52	67
7	51	4.9	7.4	6.0	30.70	10.20	84	54	69
8	52	5.6	7.7	6.3	31.81	8.20	80	50	65
9	01	6.8	8.0	6.5	31.48	9.94	80	50	65
10	02	6.4	7.4	5.6	29.61	8.10	80	35	58
11	03	6.2	6.9	5.4	29.78	11.31	79	14	47
12	04	7.2	6.7	5.6	31.65	11.90	85	37	61
13	05	7.8	5.6	4.8	32.32	12.70	87	28	57
14	06	8.3	5.2	4.6	33.50	12.98	84	32	58
15	07	9.0	5.4	4.9	32.38	12.77	85	31	58
16	08	9.6	5.1	4.4	35.54	13.45	86	22	54

**Table.2** Population dynamics of shoot and fruit borer of brinjal under field condition

Week after transplanting WAT	Meteorological week (MW)	Shoot infestation (%)	Fruit infestation (%)	Temperature (°C)		Relative Humidity (%)		Average relative humidity (%)
				Maximum	Minimum	Morning	Evening	
1	45	0	00	31.20	10.60	68	48	58
2	46	0	00	30.80	12.30	73	57	65
3	47	1.02	00	30.40	9.50	76	51	64
4	48	2.3	00	31.40	8.70	86	54	70
5	49	2.8	3.13	30.50	11.80	85	51	68
6	50	3.25	5.17	30.60	16.90	81	52	67
7	51	3.7	6.76	30.70	10.20	84	54	69
8	52	4.55	8.23	31.81	8.20	80	50	65
9	01	4.5	12.93	31.48	9.94	80	50	65
10	02	4.1	14.46	29.61	8.10	80	35	58
11	03	4.3	15.97	29.78	11.31	79	14	47
12	04	4.8	18.23	31.65	11.90	85	37	61
13	05	4.6	24.15	32.32	12.70	87	28	57
14	06	4.45	30.83	33.50	12.98	84	32	58
15	07	3.95	25.5	32.38	12.77	85	31	58
16	08	3.5	19.5	35.54	13.45	86	22	54

**Table.3** Correlation between abiotic factors and major insect pests of brinjal during *Rabi* 2016, Correlation coefficient ('r') values

Major insect pest of brinjal	Temperature(°C)		Average Relative humidity (%)	Pest incidence
	Maximum	Minimum		
1. Aphid	0.6628	0.2767	-0.5188	1.000*
2. Jassids	-0.2087	-0.2081	0.1237	1.000
3. White fly	-0.0954	-0.1492	0.1169	1.000
4. BSFB shoot infestation	0.2311	0.0502	-0.2526	1.000
5. BSFB fruit infestation	0.5601	0.3090	-0.5874	1.000

\*significant at 5 per cent level

The present experiment provides a basic study for population dynamics. It can be concluded that seasonal population fluctuation of major insect pests on brinjal crop is greatly influenced by abiotic factors and peak population levels are observed during December – February. The statistically significant values indicated that occurrence of insect pests population was due to the prevailing ecological conditions. The management of brinjal pest complex during *rabi* sown brinjal under semiarid agroclimatic zone should therefore be promoted and tailored from November onwards using an integrated approach.

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