



Study on the Incidence of Sucking Pests and Pink Bollworm in Cotton

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Sucking pests and pink bollworm are serious pest of cotton one after the other in India by causing serious yield loss. The present investigation was carried out in three major cotton growing mandals of NTR district to understand the level of pest incidence in *Bt* cotton during *Kharif*, 2022-23 on regular interval. Among the sucking pests only thrips population recorded 32.26 no/3 leaves and crossed the ETL at 45 DAS. Remaining sucking pests such as Leafhopper, whitefly and aphid did not cross ETL during crop growth period and highest incidence of 5.92, 4.04 and 27.14 no/3 leaves was recorded respectively at 45, 60 and 120 DAS. Whereas pink bollworm recorded 23.10% rosette flowers, 44.04% boll damage in Bheemavaram village of Vastavai mandal and 40.83% locule damage in Konakanchi village of Penuganchiprolu mandal.

Keywords: Sucking pest; pink boll worm; rosette flowers; boll damage and locule damage.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) belongs to the family Malvaceae is one of the world's most

essential fiber crop grown in 111 countries. China, India and the United States are the leading cotton-producing countries. India cultivates more than 11 million

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hectares annually and is the largest area in the world.

In spite being the best cotton producing country, India faces a plenty of issues in cotton production and out of which damage by insect pests attract greater importance. In India over 166 insect species affect cotton and of which 15 are considered key pests, which include bollworms and sucking pest complex. The boll worms are American boll worm, *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) Spotted boll worm, *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) and Pink boll worm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) pose greater threat to cotton production. Besides these, a complex of sucking pests viz., Green leaf hopper-*Amrasca devastans* (Distant), Aphid- *Aphis gossypii* (Glover) and Whitefly-*Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius), are also known to cause a great devastation [1] and account for the yield loss of 22.85 per cent [2]. Pink bollworm alone account for a considerable yield loss to the extent of 36.2%. In 2002 and 2006, a single gene (Cry 1Ac) and dual gene (Cry 1Ac + Cry 2Ab) Bt cotton hybrids were commercially released in India, targeting the dreaded bollworm complex, which included the American bollworm *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hub.), spotted bollworm *Earias vitella* (Fab.) and Pink boll worm. Until 2009, Bt, cotton technology performed well and offered promising boll-worm complex control. As a result, PBW infestations were very low in the first decade after Bt cotton was released. *H. armigera* and *E. vitella* still susceptible even after 15 years of continuous Bt cotton cultivation in India. However, pink bollworm reappeared as a major pest problem in India's central and southern cotton-growing belt, a nearly two-decade hiatus. On these, the pest was confirmed to feed and thrive on single (Bollgard I) and dual (Bollgard II) Bt cotton genes. Under this circumstances Study on the incidence of sucking pests and pink bollworm in cotton aims to record the incidence of sucking pests and rosette flowers, Boll damage, locule damage due to PBW on BT cotton was studied in three major cotton growing districts of NTR, district.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Experimental Details

Field experiments were conducted in the farmer fields at Penuganchiprolu, Jaggayyapeta, Nandigama and Vastavai mandals to study the incidence of sucking pests and pink bollworm in cotton. In each mandal three villages were

selected about an area of one acre. Crop was raised under recommended agronomic practices and following observations were recorded.

2.2 Data on Sucking Pests

Counts of leafhoppers, thrips and whiteflies per three leaves one each from top, middle and bottom of plant will be recorded on 20 plants from each farmer field at 15 days interval starting from three weeks after sowing by random selection.

Collected data on sucking pest incidence was analyzed using OP stat statistical software and subjected to ANOVA table and treatment means were compared using Duncans Multiple Range Test (DMRT).

2.3 Per cent Rosette Flowers

Data was taken from 45 (Days After Sowing) DAS on 50 randomly selected plants. Then the total number of flowers and rosette flowers were counted and per cent rosette flowers were worked out using following formula.

$$\% \text{ Rosette flowers} = \frac{\text{Total no of rosette flowers}}{\text{Total no of flowers}} \times 100$$

Per cent boll damage:

At every 15 days interval 25 bolls from each field was collected and observed for larval presence. Boll damage was calculated by using following formula.

$$\text{Per cent Boll damage} = \frac{\text{Total no of damaged bolls}}{\text{Total no of bolls}} \times 100$$

Per cent locule damage:

Collected bolls also examined for the locule damage. locule damage was calculated by using following formula

$$\% \text{ locule damage} = \frac{\text{Total no of damaged locules}}{\text{Total no of locules}} \times 100$$

Collected data on sucking pest incidence was analyzed using OP stat statistical software and subjected to ANOVA table and treatment means

were compared using Duncans Multiple Range Test (DMRT).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sucking pest population data was recorded from 45 to 150 DAS for every 15 days interval. Among the pest complex leafhopper incidence was ranged from 0.47 to 5.92 nos/3 leaves and did not cross the economic threshold level throughout the crop growth period. Peak incidence of leafhopper was observed at 45 DAS (5.92/3leaves) which is statistically differ with 4.47, 3.41 and 3.35 at 75, 120 and 90 DAS respectively (Table 1 and Fig. 1). Similar results were observed with the findings of Prashant et al. [3] who recorded 0.51 to 4.42 leafhoppers/3 leaves at 31 and 41 DAS. These results also corroborate with findings of Arif et al. [4] who recorded maximum leafhopper population to be 1.85 per leaf during second week of August.

The observation regarding thrips population recorded on 45 DAS showed a peak with 32.26 nos/ 3 leaves and which is crossed the ETL (10 no/leaf). There after population was decreased gradually throughout crop period and reached 0.32 nos/ 3 leaves at 150 DAS (Table.1 and Fig. 1). The present findings are not conformity with the findings of Chauhan et al. [5] he observed that thrips population remains active throughout crop growth period. Incidence was stated building up from the last week of July (0.15 thrips/leaf) and Peak incidence of thrips population was observed at 15th WAS (15.04 thrips/leaf) during the month of October. In our study thrips population was decreased gradually, this might be due to prolonged rain spell up to December. Whereas our findings are close conformity with the findings of Rajasekhar et al. (2018) who also observe the decreasing trend of thrips population, peak incidence was noticed at 45 DAS and decline gradually to 0.30 no/3leaves at 150 DAS.

The incidence of whitefly population ranged from 0.59 to 4.04 whiteflies/ 3 leaves and its population did not cross the ETL throughout crop growth period. There was slight increase in the whitefly population at 120 DAS (1.87 no/3 leaves) and decline continues (Table 1 and Fig. 1). This might be due the domination of other sucking pests and peak incidence of whitefly was observed only at 60 DAS, there after decline in the pest population. Similar results were observed with the Sana et al. [6] who observed the peak incidence of whitefly at 60 DAS with

5.78/leaf, there after decline in the population and reached 0.53/leaf at 120 DAS.

The maximum population of aphids was recorded to be 27.14 aphids/ 3 leaves at 120 DAS, which is statistically differ with 16.55 and 15.58 per three leaves during 135 and 150 DAS respectively (Table.1 and Fig. 1). In general population of aphid recorded to be not crossed the economic threshold level throughout the crop season. Present results are corroborate with the findings of Sohrab et al. [7] who observed two peaks during the crop growth period, 1st peak at 30 DAS and 2nd at 150 DAS with 11.65 and 26.83 aphids/leaf. Whereas Kiruthika et al. [8] the highest aphid population was observed at 50DAS itself, during flowering stage of the crop with 18.7 adults / 3 leaves.

3.1 Pink Bollworm

The results on the incidence of pink bollworm on cotton in three different cotton growing mandals of Nandamuri district of Andhra Pradesh are present in the table (Table 2). Data on the incidence of rosette flowers were recorded from 60 DAS to 135 DAS in three different villages of each mandal. Rosette flowers ranged from 3.81% to 35.12% throughout crop growth period. The lowest damage of 3.81% was observed in Mullapadu village of Penuganchiprolu mandal at 60 DAS and highest per cent 35.12 rosette flowers was observed in Bheemavaram village of Vastavai mandal at 135 DAS. The average infestation ratio was ranged from 10.49 to 23.10%. highest per cent rosette flowers was observed in Bheemavaram village of Vastavai mandal with 23.10%, which is statistically differ with the all other villages. Followed by Cheruvukommupalem and Peddavaram villages recorded 20.53 and 18.62% rosette flowers respectively in Nandigama mandal. Whereas lowest per cent rosette flowers was observed in Chandapuram and Mullapadu villages in Nandigama and Penuganchiprolu mandals respectively with 11.89 and 10.49%.

Present findings are in conformity with Raju et al. [9] who recorded 2.0 and 39% rosette flower at 60 and 120 DAS. Who also recorded 18.33% average highest rosette flowers during crop growth period. Whereas in our study we recorded 23.10% average highest rosette flowers during crop growth period. Likewise Patil [10] also recorded maximum per cent rosette flowers was 21.12 per cent in 2001-02 to 23.55 per cent during 2004-05 seasons with the highest

incidence of boll damage to the tune of 38.75 to 54.45%.

3.2 Per Cent Boll Damage

Data on per cent boll damage reveals that highest damage was observed in 63.65% at Bheemavaram village of Vastavai mandal at 75 DAS and lowest per cent boll damage (12.77%) was observed in Mullapadu village of Penuganchiprolu mandal at 135 DAS during crop growth period. The average boll infestation ratio was ranged from 25.83 to 44.04%. The highest per cent boll infestation was observed in Bheemavaram village (44.04%) of Vastavai mandal, which is statistically on par with Konakanchi village (41.64%) of Penuganchiprolu mandal. Lowest boll damage was observed in Chandapuram (26.40%) and Mullapadu (25.83%) villages of Nandigama and Penuganchiprolu mandals respectively. Present findings are coincide with the findings of Muttappa et al. [11] who observed green boll damage on cotton was ranging from 7.6 to 42.21 per cent per 50 bolls with a seasonal mean of 30.52 per cent during the cropping period. Furthermore Ingole et al. [12] recorded 40.42 per cent boll damage during entire crop growth period. Whereas Patil, et al. [13] observed highest incidence of 54.45 per cent boll damage which resulted in 62.56 per cent locule damage.

3.3 Per Cent Locule Damage

Per cent locule damage ranged from 3.99 to 64.00% throughout crop growth period. The lowest damage of 3.99% was observed in Mullapadu village of Penuganchiprolu mandal at 60 DAS and highest per cent (64.00%) locule damage was observed in Bheemavaram village of Vastavai mandal at 135 DAS. The average locule infestation ratio was ranged from 24.89 to 40.83% during crop growth period. The highest per cent locule damage was observed in konakanchi village of penuganchiprolu mandal with 40.83%. Followed by Peddavaram and Bheemavaram villages recorded 39.76 and 38.08% locule damage respectively in Nandigama and Vastavai mandals. Whereas lowest per cent locule damage was recorded in Balusupadu and Mullapadu villages in Penuganchiprolu and Jaggayyapeta mandals respectively by recording 25.73 and 24.89% locule damage. Similar findings are observed with the Swaroopa Reddy et al. [14]. Who recorded green boll damage caused by pink bollworm ranged between 20 to 90% with a seasonal mean of 26.52%. Further Shrilakshmi and Udikeri [15] recorded per cent flower damage, green boll damage, no. of larvae and locule damage appeared to be highest in Raichur (5.97%, 42.78%, 61/50bolls, 62.69%). Chinna babu et al. [16] also observed maximum per cent

Table 1. Incidence of sucking pests in cotton during Kharif 2022-23

DAS	Pest population/3Leaf/Plant*			
	Leafhoppers	Thrips	Whitely	Aphids
45	5.92 (2.61)a	32.26 (5.73)a	1.56 (1.59)bc	5.71 (2.57)c
60	2.50 (1.86)c	7.88 (2.97)b	4.04 (2.24)a	5.69 (2.58)c
75	4.47 (2.32)b	5.14 (2.46)cd	1.25 (1.49)cd	4.83 (2.40)c
90	3.35 (2.08)bc	4.74 (2.39)d	1.28 (1.50)cd	2.13 (1.76)d
105	2.91 (1.97)c	4.36 (2.30)d	1.87 (1.68)b	3.74 (2.16)cd
120	3.41 (2.09)bc	4.58 (2.35)d	1.17 (1.47)c	27.14 (5.29)a
135	0.47 (1.21)d	1.25 (1.49)e	0.99 (1.40)de	15.58 (4.04)b
150	0.74 (1.32)d	0.32 (1.14)e	0.59 (1.25)e	16.55 (4.18)b
CD	0.26	0.50	0.15	0.45
SEm	0.86	0.16	0.05	0.14
CV%	7.67	11.01	5.42	8.21

*Figures in the parenthesis are subjected to square root transformation, * Different letters within the same column indicate significant differences based on Duncan's multiple range test at $\alpha=0.05$

Table 2. Per cent pink boll worm infestation on flowers, bolls and locules in three major cotton growing mandals of NTR district

Name of the mandal	Name of the village	Per cent rosette flowers*				Per cent boll damage*				Per cent locule damage*			
		60DAS	100DAS	135DAS	Average IR%	75DAS	120DAS	180DAS	Average IR%	75DAS	120DAS	180DAS	Average IR%
Penugan-chiprolu	Gouravaram	4.96 (10.81)d	13.51 (21.42)cd	18.70 (25.47)def	12.39 (20.01)gh	14.54 (22.28)de	20.78 (26.16)cd	46.39 (42.88)	27.24 (30.80)e	4.67 (12.40)bcd	30.28 (33.34)c	52.35 (43.09)c	29.10 (30.72)cde
	Mullapadu	3.81 (10.48)d	12.77 (20.89)d	14.90 (22.66)f	10.49 (18.29)h	12.77 (20.89)e	18.45 (23.68)d	46.27 (42.82)	25.83 (29.73)e	3.99 (11.49)cd	26.93 (30.95)c	43.75 (42.99)c	24.89 (28.05)e
	Konakanchi	9.28 (16.33)ab	17.66 (24.70)abc	24.93 (29.80)bcd	17.29 (24.17)cde	21.82 (27.69)ab	41.15 (39.56)a	61.94 (52.31)	41.64 (39.87)ab	6.49 (14.66)ab	43.29 (41.08)a	72.70 (54.29)ab	40.83 (38.11)a
Jaggayyapeta	Balusupadu	5.53 (12.16)bcd	12.77 (20.89)d	22.35 (28.16)cde	13.55 (20.90)fg	15.96 (23.50)cde	20.78 (26.35)cd	50.06 (45.01)	28.93 (31.88)e	3.99 (11.49)cd	28.20 (31.92)c	45.00 (43.76)c	25.73 (28.56)de
	Anumanchipalli	6.88 (13.58)abcd	16.62 (23.91)bcd	24.93 (29.80)bcd	16.14 (23.06)de	15.58 (23.11)cde	22.16 (26.33)cd	51.42 (45.85)	29.72 (32.36)de	5.19 (13.08)abc	30.39 (33.30)c	55.26 (44.62)bc	30.28 (31.53)cde
	makkapeta	8.25 (14.99)abcd	19.16 (25.90)ab	27.67 (31.63)bc	18.36 (24.78)bcd	17.13 (24.40)bcde	30.47 (32.73)b	60.66 (51.19)	36.09 (36.35)c	5.32 (13.30)abc	31.09 (33.76)bc	57.50 (51.51)abc	31.30 (32.16)cd
Nandigama	Peddavaram	9.11 (15.83)abc	19.74 (26.22)ab	27.01 (31.15)bc	18.62 (25.07)bc	18.70 (25.47)bcd	31.22 (33.65)b	61.19 (51.83)	37.04 (37.00)bc	5.71 (13.74)ab	40.88 (39.71)ab	72.70 (54.29)ab	39.76 (37.34)a
	Cheruvukommupalem	9.45 (16.55)ab	21.28 (27.42)ab	30.86 (33.69)ab	20.53 (26.36)b	20.33 (26.74)abc	31.22 (33.53)b	62.07 (52.03)	37.87 (37.57)bc	5.32 (13.30)abc	34.77 (36.10)abc	57.50 (51.51)abc	32.53 (32.91)bc
	Chandapuram	4.50 (11.21)d	13.51 (21.42)cd	17.66 (24.70)ef	11.89 (19.54)gh	13.51 (21.42)e	19.87 (24.83)d	45.81 (42.54)	26.40 (30.19)e	3.90 (11.30)d	27.94 (31.85)c	52.35 (43.09)c	28.06 (29.87)cde
Vastavai	Bheemavaram	11.84 (17.02)a	22.35 (28.16)a	35.12 (36.29)a	23.10 (28.21)a	24.48 (29.59)a	43.99 (41.38)a	63.65 (52.99)	44.04 (41.35)a	6.65 (14.91)a	43.60 (41.26)a	64.00 (55.75)a	38.08 (36.45)ab
	Kanneveedu	5.89 (13.44)abcd	17.66 (24.70)abc	23.89 (29.10)bcde	15.81 (22.70)ef	16.62 (23.91)bcde	22.16 (27.65)cd	52.15 (46.28)	30.31 (32.77)de	5.19 (13.08)abcd	30.38 (33.39)c	56.71 (45.39)bc	30.76 (31.81)cde
	Gopinenipalem	7.14 (14.09)abcd	17.03 (24.32)bc	21.28 (27.42)cd	15.15 (22.43)ef	17.03 (24.32)bcde	26.32 (30.74)bc	58.13 (49.69)	33.83 (34.95)cd	5.32 (13.30)abc	30.49 (33.46)bc	52.50 (48.38)ab	29.44 (31.08)cde
	CD	4.53	3.73	4.65	1.83	3.79	5.59	N/A	3.01	1.93	6.30	9.78	4.05
	SEm	1.53	1.26	2.23	0.62	1.28	1.89	3.19	1.02	0.65	2.13	3.31	1.37
	CV%	19.18	9.07	9.36	4.68	9.10	10.74	11.54	5.11	8.74	10.55	11.90	7.35

* figures in the parenthesis are subjected to angular transformed values.

* different letters within the same column indicate significant differences based on Duncan's multiple range test at $\alpha=0.05$

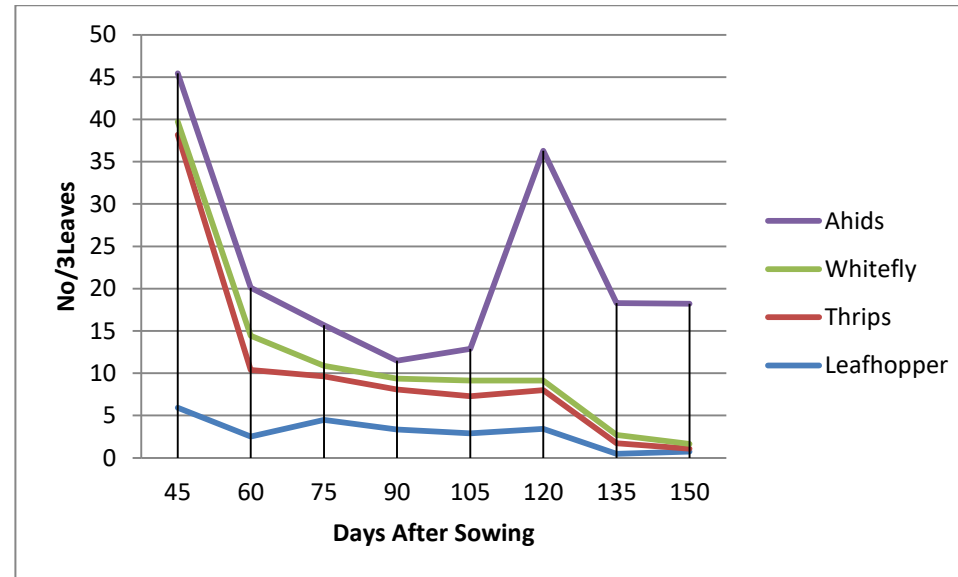


Fig. 1. Incidence of sucking pests in cotton during *Kharif* 2022-23

locule damage was at 145 DAS with 44.54% and boll damage was 4.25/30 green bolls [17].

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results obtained through the present investigation cotton crop is initially invaded by the leafhopper, thrips and whitefly population, then their incidence was declined. Aphid population was slowly buildup and attained peak incidence at 120 DAS. Later on pink boll worm incidence started and causing severe yield losses. The main problem in pest management in cotton is lack of awareness on pest identification and time of application of insecticides especially for pink boll worm. Thus population dynamics play major role in integrated pest management practices.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Seasonal incidence of pink bollworm *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) in Bt

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