

## RESEARCH NOTES :

*Madras agric. J.* 62 (2) : 61 February, 1975.

### Occurrence of the Wingless Grasshopper, *Orthacris simulans* B., on Sesamum

The small wingless grasshopper, *Orthacris simulans* B., has been reported by Fletcher (1914) to infest brinjal, groundnut, ragi, jowar and bajra. Ayyar (1940) described it as a regular pest of millets. David and Janagarajan (1969) have recorded this as a minor pest of safflower in Tamil Nadu. The incidence of *O. simulans* as a serious pest on lab lab hybrids has been recently observed by Regupathy (1971).

During the khariff 1972 season, several varieties of sesamum raised in the germplasm bank at Coimbatore were found to be severely infested with large numbers of both nymphs and adults of this grasshopper.

The nymphs and adults were found to remain always on the plants and chiefly feed on the top leaves. In most cases the plants were severely defoliated leaving the mid ribs alone. The freshly formed tender pods were found to be partially eaten up in several plants. The extent of defoliation recorded in a few varieties is given below.

Variety	Percentage of leaves eaten up
S. I. 1970	58.4 Percent
S. I. 2227	71.7 "
S. I. 2827	45.9 "
S. I. 2815	38.5 "
S. I. 2922	47.7 "
S. I. 3009	43.2 "
S. I. 3175	57.3 "
S. I. 3188	65.5 "
TMV 3	48.6 "
KRR 1	49.3 "

Even though Weiss (1971) recorded *Cyrtacanthacris tentarica* L. and *Chrotogonus terachypterus* (Blanch) as the acridid pests of sesamum in India, they are of minor importance. The present observations indicate *O. simulans* as an important pest of this crop. This also appears to be the first record of this grasshopper on sesamum and this may assume serious proportion if unchecked.

This pest can be effectively controlled by dusting BHC 10 per cent at 25 kg/ha or carbaryl 10 per cent at 15 kg/ha.

S. THIRUMURTHI  
E. V. ABRAHAM

Department of Entomology  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore-641003.

#### REFERENCES

- AYYAR, T. V. R. 1940. *A Handbook of Economic Entomology for S. India*. Supdt. Govt. Press, Madras.
- DAVID, B. V. and A. JANAGARAJAN. 1969. Notes on pests of Safflower in Tamil Nadu *Madras agric. J.* 53 : 534-8.
- FLETCHER, T. B. 1914. *Some South Indian Insects and other animals of Economic importance*, Supdt. Govt. Press, Madras.
- REGUPATHY, A. 1971. Observations on the incidence of the wingless grasshopper, *Orthacris simulans* (Acrididae-Orthoptera) on some varieties of field bean (*Lab lab niger*). *Madras agric. J.* 58 : 318-21.
- WEISS, E. A. 1971. *Castor, sesamum and safflower*. Leonard Hill, London.