

THE YELLOW BANDED WASP, *Vespa cincta* Fabr. AS A PEST OF GRAPES

Some species of wasps are known to damage fruits. These include *Vespa germanica* L., *V. vulgaris* F., and *V. crebro* L., damaging grape fruits in Central France (Robin and Duperz 1941), *V. orientalis* L. injuring ripe fruits in Israel (Marcovitch 1952, 54) and *V. cincta* Fabr. feeding on sapota fruits and floral parts of banana (Thontadarya 1969).

Vespa cincta was observed to feed on half ripe and ripe grape berries causing excessive damage during 1968-70 in the Agricultural College Orchards, Dharwar, Mysore State.

The wasps cut the outer skin of the fruits with the powerful mandibles and fed on the pulp. Such berries shrivelled and dried up and dropped leaving the bunches empty.

From counts of berries damaged by the wasp, of 5 bunches collected at random from each variety showed that the variety Khandari suffered the greatest loss (35 per cent) followed by Anabe-E-Shahi (33 per cent), Selection 94 (32 per cent), Karachi (31.5 per cent), Selection 7 (31 per cent), Gulabi (25 per cent) and Bhokri (19.5 per cent). Thus Khandari appeared to be the most highly susceptible variety to damage by the wasp and Bhokri the most resistant.

Thanks are due to Dr. M. Puttarudriah, Professor of Entomology and Director of Instruction (Agri.), Bangalore, for the guidance, to Dr. S. W. Mensinkai, Director of Instruction (Agri.), Dharwar, for providing the facilities and to Dr. G. P. Channa Basavanna, Associate Professor of Entomology for going through the manuscript.

References

- Marcovitch, S. 1965. Observations on insect pests in Israel, F. A. O. *Plant Protection Bull.* 1 (2): 25-26
- Marcovitch, S. 1954. The insect pest situation in Israeli agriculture. *J. Econ. Ent.* 47 (1): 19-23
- Robin, F. and Duprez, R. 1945. La lutte contre les frelons et les guêpes dans les vergers. *C. R. Acad. Agric. Fr.* 31 (2): 104-107
- Thontadarya, 1968. Some observations on the feeding habits of the wasp, *Vespa cincta* Fabr. (Vespidae: Hymenoptera). *Mys. J. Agri. Sci.* 11 (4)

Department of Entomology &
Horticulture,
College of Agriculture, Dharwar.

B. N. VISWANATH
U. G. NALAWADI
K. A. KULKARNI

(Accepted : 10-9-1970)