

Agri. Res. J. Kerala, 1973 11 (2)

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SELEPA DOCILIS* BUTLER AS A
PEST OF BRINJAL IN MYSORE STATE

Selepa docilis Butler (Lepidoptera : Noctuidae) was observed for the first time in 1968 in Mysore State (at Hebbal, Bangalore) infesting brinjal. This has been previously recorded on brinjal in other parts of India (Cherian & Pillai 1942, Isaac 1944, Pruthi 1946). The moths were found to lay pear-shaped eggs measuring 0.62 x 0.67 mm; the surface had longitudinal ribs with cross striations. The egg hatched in 6 - 7 days. The first instar larva, 1.45 mm long was white with black head and long hairs all over the body. The larva fed on the leaves and underwent 5 instars, the 1st instar taking 5 - 6 days and the remaining 4 instars taking 4 days each. Full grown larva was thick and stout with the head pale yellow and mottled with black patches. Green bands were present laterally and pinkish bands dorsally on the body. Second and 9th abdominal segments were black dorsally. Body was covered with long white setae. Larval period on the whole occupied 21 - 22 days. Pupation took place on the underside of leaves in a dirty white cocoon for a period of 8 - 10 days. Total life cycle occupied 35 - 39 days in June-July.

Damage to brinjal was caused by the larvae scraping the leaf surface in the early stages and feeding on the whole leaf tissues leaving the veins in the grown up stages.

REFERENCES

- Cherian, M. r. and B. Rangiah Pillai, 1942. "*Selepa docilis* parasite of *Solarium melongena* in India". *Indian J. Ent.* 4, 236-237
- Isaac, P. V. 1944. "Report of the Imperial Entomologist". *Sci. Rep. Agric. Res. Inst. New Delhi.* 1944-45, 73-79
- Pruthi, M. S. 1946. "Report of the Imperial Entomologist" *Abridg Sci. Rep. Agri. Res. Inst., New Delhi,* 1941-44, 64-71

Department of Entomology
Agricultural College
Hebbal, Bangalore-24

B. N. VISWANATH
B. K. NAGESHCHANDRA
R. BALASUBRAMANIAN

(M.S. received: 20-10-1970)