

## BIOLOGY OF THE GREEN BORER OF SUGARCANE, *RAPHIMETOPUS ABLUTELLUS* ZELLER (LEPIDOPTERA - PYRALIDAE)

The green borer of sugarcane, *Anerastia ablutellus* reported by Lefroy (1908) was placed under the genus *Raphimetopus* by Hampson (1918) and Fletcher and Ghosh (1919) recorded it as a sporadic pest of sugarcane in North Bihar. In recent years it has become a regular pest of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh.

*R. ablutellus* oviposits in cracks on loose soil below the cane shoots. The eggs are laid in cluster without overlapping. The eggs are white in colour, oval in shape, 0.86 mm long and 0.48 mm broad. Moths laid 36 eggs on an average (range 50 to 20) in the laboratory. The oviposition period was 3 days. Incubation period was 6-7 days. There were five larval instars. The first instar larva is creamy white with transverse grey line on the dorsal side of

each segment. The second instar larva was greenish on the thorax and light pink on the abdomen. The third, fourth and fifth instar larvae are all copperish-green. The larval period was covered in 20-24 days. The mature larva moves to the ground and spins a cocoon bearing a loose cap through which the moth emerges. Soil particles are attached to the surface of the cocoon giving it the appearance of an earth cell. Cocoon length varied between 10.0 and 25.0 mm and breadth between 4.0 - 5.0 mm. The anal end bears six circinate hairs. The pupal period was 6-8 days. The forewings of the moth are ochreous and the hind wings white. The female is very sluggish and survive for 6 days. The male is quite active and lives for 3 days. The total life cycle ranged between 35-42 days during April and May.

KLDAV Degree College  
Roorkee, U.P., India

B.L. Agarwal  
S.C. Dhiman

### REFERENCES

- Fletcher, T.B. 1919. Second hundred notes on Indian insects, MIAgric. Res. Inst. Pusa Bull. 89 : 77-78
- Fletcher, T.B. and Ghosh, C.C. 1919. Borers in sugarcane rice etc *Proc. Third Ento. Meeting Pusa* L : 122, 385
- Hampson, G.F. 1918. Revision of genus *Anaerastia*. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* p 78
- Lefroy, H. 1908. Biology of *Anaerastia ablutellus*, a green borer of sugarcane. *Agric. J.* 3(2) : 104

