

NEW RECORD OF *LEPTOGLOSSUS AUSTRALIS* (Fabr) AS A PEST OF BITTERGOURD IN KERALA

Severe incidence of *Leptoglossus australis* was noted on bittergourd (var: Priya) in the vegetable research plot of the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Trichur during April-May 1985. This is the first report of the pest on bittergourd from Kerala.

The leaf footed bug *L. australis* (Fabr.) (Coreidae: Hemiptera) is a medium sized black bug of about 2 cm long with a narrow yellow border on the anterior half of the pronotum. Murray (1976) reported it as a pest of passion fruit in Queensland.

Visalakshi *et al.*, (1980) reported *L. australis* as a pest of snakegourd from the Agricultural College Farm, Vellayani, Trivandrum and they worked out the biology of the pest. *L. membranaceus* (Fabr.) is a pest of citrus (Nair, 1975) and pomegranate (Jadhav *et al.*, 1976) in India. Fletcher (1920) reported *L. membranaceus* on snakegourd in India.

Nymphs and adults were found draining sap from tender vines, leaves and fruit. As a result the vines withered and leaves dried up. In the later stages of the crop the attack was mainly confined to fruit. Young and mature fruit was attacked. The attacked fruit got malformed and was under sized. Premature ripening of the fruit leading to yellowing and rotting was also noticed. The symptoms were very much like that of the fruit fly (*Dacus cucurbitae*) attack on bittergourd.

The bugs spared no fruit and the attempts to control the pest using chemicals like methyl parathion (0.05%) and phosphamidon (0.05%) were partly successful.

സംഗ്രഹം

മലപ്പുറം പ്രദേശത്ത് കോർക്കിന് *Leptoglossus australis* എന്ന ഒരു പുതിയ കീടം പാവലിന്റെ കായ്കളേയും തണ്ടിനേയും ഇലകളേയും ആക്രമിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ടു. ഏപ്രിൽ മേയ് മാസങ്ങളിലാണ് ഇവയുടെ ആക്രമണം വെള്ളാനിക്കരയുള്ള ഹോർട്ടികൾച്ചറൽ കോളേജ് ഫാമിൽ കണ്ടത്.

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