

**Crop Protection :: Pest of paddy****Rice earhead bug: *Leptocorisa acuta*****Symptoms of damage:**

- Nymphs and adults suck the sap from individual grains, which are in milky stage.
- Individual grains become chaffy
- Black spots on the grains at the site of feeding puncture.
- Buggy odour in rice field during milky stage

**Identification of insect pest:**

- **Egg:** Circular, brownish seed like 2mm long laid in clusters in two rows along the midrib on the upper surface of the leaf blade
- **Nymph:** First instar is small, 2mm long, pale green in colour which grows to dark green through different instars
- **Adult:** Greenish yellow, long and slender, above ½ inch in length with a characteristic buggy odour

**Earhead Bug Feeding Injuries****Adult feeding on the grains****Management:**

**ETL:** 5 bugs/100 earheads at flowering and 16 bugs/100 earheads from milky stage to grain maturity

- Dust any one of the following at 10 kg/ac twice, the first during flowering and second a week later:
  - Quinalphos 1.5 D
  - KKM 10 D (KKM dust formulation consists of 10% of *Acorus calamus* rhizome powder and 90% of fly ash which is a waste product from Thermal Power Station)
- Spray any one of the following twice as above
  - Malathion 50 EC 200 ml/ac
  - Neem seed kernel extract 5% 10 kg/ac
  - Notchi or *Ipomoea* or *Prosopis* leaf extract 10%

**Earhead Bug Eggs****Nymph****Adult**