

## Lecture No. 12.      PESTS OF OILSEEDS - GROUNDNUT

### SUBTERRANEAN PESTS

#### 5. Stem borer, **Ver poochi**, *Sphenoptera perotetti*, Buprestidae, Coleoptera

Symptom of damage: Branches may droop and the plants show wilting and may die when the grubs reach the root.

Nature of damage: Grubs tunnel the stem just below the soil surface and main roots, tunnel containing elongate flat-headed grubs.

Life stages

Egg: Small flat oval eggs laid on the main stem of the plants.

Grub: Slender pale whitish with flattened anterior portion, called 'flat-headed grubs'.

Pupa: Pupation occurs inside burrows (tunnels) from which the adult beetles emerge by cutting their way out.

Adult: Dark brown, shiny beetle, jewel like and small (1 cm) beetle.

#### 6. White grub, *Holotrichia* spp., Melolonthidae, Coleoptera

Symptom of damage: Wilting of plants in patches. Wilted plants do not have taproot and rootlets.

Nature of damage: Both the grubs and adults do the damage. The grubs feed on the root and rootlets. Adult beetles feed on the foliage and are capable of defoliating plants and even trees like neem, banyan. Feeding is carried out during the night.

Egg: Laid in loose moist sandy or sandy-loam soil on the onset of monsoon.

Grub: White coloured.

Pupa: Exarate pupa.

Adult: Large-sized, copper coloured, nocturnal beetles. Adults remain at a depth of 10-20 cm and come out during the night for feeding. Diapause occurs from November to June.

#### 7. Termite, *Odontotermes obesus*, Termitidae, Isoptera

Symptom of damage: Wilting of plants in patches. Taproots of wilted plants penetrated; bore holes in pods. Damage to soft tissue in pod (scarification) leaving thicker portion intact. Termites found hovering in and around plants.

Nature of damage: Adults feed on the taproots and pods.

Adult: Cream coloured tiny insects resembling ants with dark coloured head.

#### 8. Pod borer (Earwig), *Euboriella* (= *Anisolabis*) *stali*, Forficulidae, Dermaptera

Symptom of damage: Young pods showing bore holes plugged with excreta, sand particles or discoloured pulps; pods without kernels.

Nymph: Nymph white in early stages and later turn brown.

Adult: Dark brown to black with forceps like caudal cerci and white leg joints.

#### 9. Pod bug, *Elasmolomus sordidus*, Lygaeidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of damage: Freshly harvested pods having shrivelled kernels.