

Lecture No. 11. PESTS OF OILSEEDS - GROUNDNUT

LEAF FEEDERS

1. Red hairy caterpillar, *Amsacta albistriga*, Arctiidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation

Nature of damage: All the leaves are eaten away by the larvae leaving the main stem alone. Larvae are voracious feeders. During severe attack, the caterpillars move in groups destroying field after field.

Egg: Light yellow spherical eggs are laid in clusters on the undersurface of the leaves.

Larva: Hairy caterpillar reddish brown with black band on either end having long reddish brown hairs all over the body.

Pupa: Reddish brown and elongate remains under soil for 9-10 months. Adults emerge after receiving the first monsoon showers.

Adult: Forewing white with brownish streak all over and yellowish streak along the anterior margin and head; hindwings white with black markings.

2. Leaf miner/ Surul poochi/ soybean leaf miner, *Aproaerema modicella*, Gelechiidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Brown blotches in midrib; terminal leaflets with white patches; webbed together, distorted and finally get dried up.

Nature of damage: Minute larvae wander briefly and they mine into the leaves and eat the green matter of the leaves. Later they web several leaves together and feed inside the enclosed space thus formed.

Egg: Laid on the leaves and shoots.

Larva: Small, green in colour with dark head and prothorax.

Pupa: Reddish brown. Pupa is formed inside the mines.

Adult: Dark brown moth with a white spot on the costal margin of each forewing.

3. Tobacco caterpillar, *Spodoptera litura*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Skeletonization, defoliation.

Nature of damage: Early instar larva remain gregarious and cause skeletonization. Later instar cause defoliation.

Egg: Yellow in colour, laid in mass and covered with hairs.

Larva: Pale greenish with dark markings; gregarious in the early stages.

Pupa: Brown colour, oblong pupa.

Adult: Moth with wavy white markings on a brown forewing. Hindwings white with a brown patch along the margin.

4. Gram pod borer, *Helicoverpa armigera*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation.

Nature of damage: Larvae feed on the leaves irregularly.