

Lecture No. 15.

PESTS OF COTTON- SUCKING PESTS

SUCKING PESTS

1. Leafhopper / Jassid, *Amrasca devastans*, Cicadellidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of attack: Yellowing of leaves, crinkling, backward curls of leaves, bronzing and hopperburn, plants become stunted .

Nature of damage : Nymphs and adults remain between the veins on the undersurface of the leaves and sucks the sap.

Egg : Elongate, yellowish eggs are laid singly within the leaf veins in the parenchymatous layer between the vascular bundles and the epidermis on the upper leaf surface.

Nymph : Light green, translucent, wingless and wedge shaped.

Adult : Slender green insect, wedge shaped

2. Cotton aphid, *Aphis gossypii*, Aphididae, Hemiptera

Symptom of attack : Young plants become weak, leaf curl up and wither.

Nature of damage : Nymphs and adults suck the plant sap and lower the plant vitality. They produce honeydew, which results in development of black sooty mould. The damage is more severe in young plants.

Adult : Soft, yellow, exist both in winged and wingless forms. Both forms reproduce parthenogenetically and are viviparous.

3. Thrips, *Thrips tabaci*, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, Thripidae, Thysanoptera

Symptom of attack : Silvery sheen on the undersurface of the leaves . When infestation in heavy, leaves shrivel and have ragged edges. Attacks leaf and flowers.

Nature of damage : Nymphs and adults lacerate the tissue on the under surface of the leaves and suck up the sap.

Adult : Small slender insects, colour vary from yellow to brown with fringed wings.

4. Whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*, Aleyrodidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of attack: White chlorotic spots appear on leaves, which coalesce forming reddish yellow area, which extends from veins to the outer edges. Leaves fall prematurely. Number and quality of flowers squares and bolls gets reduced. Nymphs and adults secrete honeydew, which lead to sooty mould formation.

Nature of damage : Nymphs and adults remain in cluster and desap. It also acts as vector of cotton leaf curl virus, vein-clearing disease in bhendi, tobacco leaf curl and cassava mosaic.

Egg : Stalked eggs, laid singly on the undersurface of the leaves

Nymph : Oval, greenish yellow

Pupa : Oval and seen on the undersurface of the leaves.

Adult : Minute with yellow body and hyaline wings dusted with a waxy powder