

Lecture No. 5. PESTS OF FINGER MILLET, MAIZE AND TENAI

FINGER MILLET

1. **Pink borer**, *Sesamia inferens*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Deadheart.

Nature of damage: Larva congregate inside the leaf whorls and feed on the central leaves causing typical 'pin hole' symptom. Severe feeding results in drying of the central shoot and results in dead heart formation.

Egg: Creamy white spherical eggs laid in batches in between leaf sheaths and stem of the plant.

Larva: Pinkish brown with a reddish brown head.

Pupa: Brown, oblong pupa, pupates inside the stem.

Adult: Straw coloured moth with forewings having 3 black spots and a faint brown mid-stripe with white hindwings.

2. **White borer**, *Saluria inficita*, Phycitidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Deadheart.

Nature of damage: Larva found at the base of tillers close to soil level and attack the basal parts of the plants.

Larva: Creamy white with yellow head.

Pupa: Brown, oblong type, pupates inside the stem.

Adult: Small moth with dark brown forewings bearing a white band along the anterior margin and white hindwings.

3. **Cutworm**, *Spodoptera exigua*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation in the nursery.

Nature of damage: Larva feed on leaves especially in the nursery. Larvae hide in the soil during daytime and feed on leaves at night.

Egg: Lays cluster of eggs on the lower portion of young plants.

Larva: Brownish green with wavy lines in dorsal surface and lateral yellow stripes.

Pupa: Pupates in the soil in earthen cocoons.

Adult: Brown moth with white hindwings.

4. **Black hairy caterpillar**, *Estigmene lactinea*, Arctiidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation.

Nature of damage: Larva feeds on the leaves.

Egg: Eggs are laid on the plants.

Larva: Thick with black head and hairs all over the body.

Pupa: Pupates in soil.

Adult: Large white moth with crimson markings on head, body and wings.

5. **Flea beetle**, *Chaetocnema pusaensis*, Alticidae, Coleoptera