

Lecture No. 21. PESTS OF SUGARCANE – SUCKING PESTS AND SUBTERRANEAN PESTS

SUCKING PESTS

1. Whiteflies, *Aleurolobus barodensis*, Aleyrodidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of damage: Yellowing of leaves, turn pinkish and later gradually dry. Infested leaves look white, while those below are black due to the growth of sooty mould on the honeydew.

Nature of damage: Nymphs suck the sap from the leaves.

Egg: Females lay eggs in a line near the midrib or anywhere on the lower surface of the leaves. Eggs are yellowish with a small curved stalk. Colour changes to black about two hours after the eggs are laid.

Nymph : Neonate nymphs are pale yellow in colour, flat and oval in shape, later turn shiny black. Its body is surrounded by fringes of wax.

Pupa: The fourth instar being the pupal stage, is flat, oval, greyish in colour and slightly bigger than the nymph. There is a 'T' shaped white marking on the thorax, which splits at the time of adult emergence.

Adult: Pale yellow body with hyaline wings dusted with waxy bloom, exhibit brisk fluttering movements.

2. Whiteflies, *Neomaskellia bergii*, *Neomaskellia andropogonis*, Aleyrodidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of damage: Black, grey or white dot like pupae on the undersurface of leaves.

Nature of damage: Nymph suck plant sap from the lower surface of leaves. Drainage of sap adversely affects plant growth.

Egg: Eggs are laid on the undersurface of the leaves in circular or semicircular masses. Freshly laid eggs are yellowish white, which later become dusky yellow.

Nymph: Oval in shape and brownish in colour. Their bodies surrounded by white wax.

Pupa: Pupation occurs on the leaves.

Adult: Pale brown with black bands on wings.

3. Leaf hopper, *Pyrilla perpusilla*, Lophopidae, Hemiptera

Symptom of damage: Yellow leaves, covered with black sooty mould; top leaves gets dried up and lateral buds germinate.

Nature of damage: Nymphs and adults remain in groups on the lower surface of leaves and suck the plant sap. They secrete honeydew, which attract sooty mould development. Severe attack results in loss of sugar content in the canes, to the extent of 34% and growth is suppressed.

Egg: Eggs are laid in clusters on the lower surface of leaves or in the leaf sheaths. Eggs are covered with white fluffy waxy filaments.

Nymph : Soft pale brown dorsally and pale orange ventrally with two characteristic anal filaments.

Adult: Soft, straw coloured with the head pointing forward as snout. Wings fold over the abdomen like hood; they are densely veined and transparent.

4. Mealybug, *Saccharicoccus sacchari*, Pseudococcidae, Hemiptera