

STUDIES ON SEASONAL INCIDENCE AND EXTENT OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY DIAMONDBACK MOTH, *PLUTELLA XYLOSTELLA* (L.) IN CAULIFLOWER

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Abstract: Survey of seasonal incidence and extent of damage caused by DBM (*Plutella xylostella* Linn.) was conducted at three locations having appreciable areas under cauliflower cultivation during the first fortnight of December to second fortnight of March. It was found that the pest infestation started on cauliflower crop from the first fortnight of January and the activity continued until second fortnight of March. The peak period of infestation was recorded in the second fortnight of February with an average of 7.1 larvae/plant leading to 32.9 per cent plant infestation. In general the incidence of DBM remained low to moderate from the first fortnight of January to the second fortnight of January. The maximum activity of *P. xylostella* confined in the second fortnight of January to the second fortnight of February. Hence, maximum plant protection measures should be taken up against the pest during this period. The plant infestation by the DBM on the cauliflower crop was observed from the first fortnight of January to the second fortnight of March. The maximum infestation of 32.9 per cent, out of which 12.5, 10.3 and 10.1 per cent plants were observed having less, moderate and high degree of damage, respectively. In the first and second fortnights of March the per cent plant infestation was suddenly decreased.

Keywords: Cauliflower, Diamondback moth damage, Population, Seasonal Incidence

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