

**INFESTATION OF SITOTROGA CEREALELLA  
(OLIVER) UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS AND  
STORAGES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF SRI LANKA**

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Samples of paddy were collected from different field conditions and storages, kept in clean bottles in the laboratory and the number of moths that emerge from the samples was determined.

It was found that the ripe panicles that were on the rice plants in the paddy fields were in most cases infested with the moth. There was no significant difference between the degree of infestation of the panicles of the field close to the dwelling house and that of the panicles of the fields far away from the dwelling houses.

In most cases the samples of paddy collected from threshing floors were found to be infested with the moth. Those collected from the fields close to dwelling houses were equally infested as those collected from the fields away from the dwelling houses.

A survey for the presence of *S. cerealella* was made in the paddy fields after harvesting and it was found that the moth was not found at all in the paddy fields during that time.

A survey of the storage pattern in dwelling houses showed that out of many traditional methods of storage, particularly two methods, namely, storage in gunny bags and storage in large wooden boxes are the usual methods. Samples taken monthly from these storages showed that the paddy in both cases are equally infested with the moth. However, it was found that the storage of paddy in gunny bags covered by a heap of straw or covering the panicles with large heap of straw prevented infestation by this moth to a great extent.

It appears that *S. cerealella* comes to the paddy fields during the ripe panicle stage or harvesting and threshing stage and lays its eggs on the paddy causing infestation, and the method of storage, to a certain extent, prevents infestation.