

PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON POPULATION SAMPLING OF PLANTHOPPER AND LEAFHOPPER COMPLEXES OF RICE IN AMPARAI AND BATTICALOA DISTRICTS

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The brown planthopper *Nilaparvata lugens* Stal. has become a serious pest in several rice growing areas of Sri Lanka particularly in Amparai and Batticaloa districts. An ecologically acceptable method of control of *N. lugens* requires a survey of the field population of this pest. A 6-7 week survey of planthopper and leafhopper complexes and insect predators was carried out in fields in Kohabana and Central Camp in the Amparai District and Kaluvanchikudi in the Batticaloa District during Yala 1975.

N. lugens was the predominant, or the only, species of the planthopper complex in these Districts with *Sogatella furcifera* Horv. not exceeding 9% of the complex in any field. Leafhopper species collected include *Nephotettix impicticeps* Ishihara, *Tettigoniella spectra* Dist. and *Recilia dorsalis* Mots. Insect predators collected were an anthocorid, two coccinellids and a species of *Cyrtorrhinus* Fieber a mirid.