

**THE BIONOMICS AND CONTROL OF THE ROOT AND STEM BORER
(PLOCAEDERUS FERRUGINEUS) AND THE TEA MOSQUITO BUG
(HELOPELTIS ANTONII) OF CASHEW IN SRI LANKA**

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Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), which is grown on a wide-scale in both the western and eastern sectors of the dry zone, is attacked by a number of insect pests during the different stages of its growth and development. On the basis of the extent of economic damage caused to this tree, the root and stem borer, *Plocaederus ferrugineus*, and the tea mosquito bug, *Helopeltis antonii*, are rated as major pests. Several workers have reported on the bionomics and control techniques of this pest (Choudri, 1962; Nambiar, 1973; Pillai, 1974; Swaine, 1959).

The bionomics of the root and stem borer is presented in detail and the results of using a microbial agent (*Rhabdionvirus oryctes*) and an entomophagous fungus (*Metarrhizium anisophae*) are discussed with those of insecticide trials.

Studies have also been made on the effect of insecticide spray schedules as well as other possible control techniques on the bionomics of the tea mosquito bug. This latter pest is a serious one in the Eastern Province where it is the primary incitor for the malady 'inflorescence blight' of cashew caused by secondarily invading saprophytic fungi, *Phomopsis anacardiaceae* and *Gloesporium mangiferae*.

References :

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