

**RECENT RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS ON LIFE BIOLOGY OF ROOT AND STEM BORER
(*PLOCAEDERUS FERRUGINEUS* L) OF CASHEW**

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Root and stem borer (*Plocarderus ferrugineus* L) is considered as one of the major pests affecting cashew in Sri Lanka. Intensity of infestation is very severe in forest plantations and very often higher intensities upto 10-15% were observed. Several authors (Madhava Rao 1955, Basu choudhuri 1962) have reported that this cerambycid borer as the dreaded enemy of cashew in India. In this study the life biology of the borer was studied using an artificial media in the laboratory. The results will be presented in detail in comparision to the earlier work performed on the life biology of the borer (Rajapakse 1979).

Early detection of the pest is absolutely necessary for the timely control measures. A method of early detection of the pest will be presented with that of a mass rearing technique of the borer in the laboratory using an artificial diet. Thus the above work has helped in the strategy of integrating the control techniques to manage the pest effectively.

References:

1. Basu choudhuri J. C. 1962 Preliminary investigations on insect pests of cashew plantations in Kerala. Ind. Fores. 88. 516-522.
2. Madhava Rao V. N. 1955 Cashew cultivation in South India. ICAR Farm Bull. No. 9. 18 pp
3. Rajapakse Rohan H. S. 1979. Bionomics and control of root and stem borer and tea mosquito of cashew in Sri Lanka. Proc. of SLAAS pp 20.