YIELD LOSSES DUE TO RICE GALL-MIDGE, ORASEOLIA CRYZAE WOOD MASON

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A yield loss assessment caused by Rice Gall-midge (RGM) was carried out on nine rice cultivars belonging to four age classes during the Maha 87/88.

Nearly one hundred hills from each of the nine cultivars planted in breeders seed production plots were randomly selected. In each hill the total number of tillers and the number of silver shoots (RGM affected tillers) were counted at flowering. The percentage of gall-midge incidence was determined by dividing the number of silver shoots by the total number of tillers. These hills were marked and the grain yields were recorded at harvest. The regression between the grain yield per hill on the percentage gall-midge incidence (GMI) was calculated.

The grain yields were negatively correlated with GMI in all cultivars. The regression coefficient (r) between the expected yield and GMI were significant in all cultivars with the exception of 3½ cv. and r values ranged from 0.23 to 0.65. The % yield loss/unit % GMI ranged from 0.29 to 1.07 in different cultivars. These yield loss values can be used to formulate tentative economic thresh-hold values which serve as a guide for making insecticidal recommondations.