

AN INSECT SURVEY OF RICE PLANTS IN SELECTED
PADDY FIELDS IN JAFFNA PENINSULA

V.K. Ganesalingam, K. Jeyasingham
Dept. of Zoology, University of Jaffna.

A survey was done in four paddy fields in Jaffna for nearly one year during the periods of planting, growth, panicle formation and harvest. This was done in order to study the insect pests, periodic populations of the pests, damage done by the pests, population of parasites and predators and possibility of forecasting the insect pests. Sweep-net was used to study the insect population as a simple method.

There were six more insect species observed in this study than what have been reported earlier.

Various pests appeared at various times attacking different parts of plants including panicles. However the pests disappeared from the field after harvest. There is no indication that pests live in weeds as alternate hosts in the field after harvest.

It appears that the natural enemies have adequate control of most of the pests. However, ephotettix bipunctate developed into a major pest, which needed insecticide application to bring down the pest population.

Future population explosion may be predicted by this survey method and it may be possible to take precautionary measures which will be of much use in pest management.

It is concluded that the method adopted in this study could be used for pest forecast in the field by ordinary farmers.