B-96 : SEASONALITY OF IMPORTANT INSECT PESTS DURING REPRODUCTIVE STAGE AND STORAGE OF PIGEON PEA *Cajanus cajan* L. IN MAHAWELI SYSTEM B

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Pests that damage reproductive organs are the most serious of the pigeonpea pest complex. Their incidence was studied by systematic sampling from a continuous cultivation of pigeon pea variety, ICPL 87 and ICPL 312 managed under insecticide-free condition at Aralaganwila during the period from 1989 to 1992. *Maruca testulalis* Geyer (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), *Lampides boiticus* Linnaeus (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae), *Sphenarches anisodactylus* Walker (Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae), *Helicoverpa armigera* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Noctuidea), *Dasychira mendosa* Hubner and *Euproctis sp.* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae), *Magalurothrips usitatus* Bagnall (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), *Melanagromyza obtuza* Mall. (Diptera: Agromyzidae), *Nezara viridula* Linnaeus (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), *Riptortus sp. and Clavigralla gibbosa* Spinola (Heteroptera: Coreidae), *Etiella zinckenella* Treit (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), *Brachyacma sp.* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) and Callosobruchus sp. (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) were the most serious pests. The populations of *M. obtusa, M. usitatus, E. zinkenella* and *Brachyacma sp.* were more severe during Yala and that of other species were more severe during Maha. Incidence of pest damages was more severe on Maha crop than on Yala crop. Data also showed that the crops which commenced flowering and pod setting during the period from mid June to August suffer from minimum pest damages. thus, there is a high potential to maximize crop production by adjusting the planting time.