B-97: Seasonal abundance and parasitism of lepidopteran pests on a cabbage, *Brassica oleracea capitata* L. in the mid-country*

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Laboratory and field investigations were carried out to study the seasonality and parasitism of lepidopteran pests on cabbage under insecticide free conditions at

CARI, Peradeniya from 1984 to 1986. The 5 major pests were *Plutella xylostella* L., *Spodoptera litura F., Crocidolomia binotalis Z., Chrysodeixis eriosoma Doubl. and Hellula undalis Fab.*

Plutella xylostella, S. litura and C. *binotalis* were more predominant than the other 2 species. *Plutella xylostella, S. litura* and *H. undalis* preferred plants before head formation while the other 2 species preferred plants with developing heads. Damage by *S. litura* and *H. undalis* during seedling stage adversely affected head development. Population of *H. undalis* was high during March to July. Populations of the other 4 species were higher from December to April and high from mid July to October than during the rest of the period.

Important parasitoids were *Trichogrammatoidea bactrae* (35% egg parasitism), *Apanteles plutellae* Kurdjumov (51% larval parasitism) and *Tetrastichus sokolowskii* Kurjumov (25% pupal parasitism) on *P. xylostella, Telenomus remus* Nixon and *Microplitis similis Lyle* on *S. litura, Apanteles stantoni* Ashmead on *C. binotalis, Apanteles ruficrus* Halidae and *Copidosoma sp.* on *C. eriosoma* and *Diaeratiella rapae* M'Intosh on *H. undalis, Apanteles plutellae* suffered from hyperparasitism by *Tetrastichus sokolowskii* Kurdjumov and *Aphanogmces fijientis* Ferr.

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