

B-92: Distribution pattern of different species of cabbage caterpillar in the hill country

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A field survey was conducted from March 1993 to May 1994 to study the present population distribution of cabbage caterpillars in different agro-climatic zones of the hill country. This survey covered 8 locations, 2 from upcountry wet zone and 6 from upcountry intermediate zone.

Caterpillar larvae and eggs were collected from randomly selected plants from each location. Farmers were interviewed to record their pest control practices and insecticides used. Collected larvae were reared in the laboratory at Regional Agricultural Research Centre, (RARC) Bandarawela to study parasitism. From the study 5 lepidopteran pests viz. Diamond Back Moth (*Plutella xylostella*), Looper (*Plusia sp*), Army worm (*Spodoptera litura* E, Cut worm (*Agrotis ypsilon* and *Hellula undalis*) were identified as the common caterpillars in both regions.

Cabbage looper was dominant in some locations in upcountry intermediate zone during the wet period of the year.

Diamond back moth (DBM) was dominant in locations in upcountry wet zone and in some locations in upcountry intermediate zone. In all the locations where DBM was dominant, farmers had used various insecticides weekly or biweekly. Predominance of DBM in these locations could be a result of fast build-up of resistance in DBM populations.