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Abundance of Coccinellids, predatory on *Aphis craccivora* (Bean Aphid)

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Insect pests could be considered as the main cause of losses in agricultural crops. Aphids are a very important group of insect pests. Bean aphid, *Aphis craccivora* is capable of causing considerable losses to the legume crops directly and indirectly. Indirectly *A. craccivora* acts as a vector of most important legume viruses than as a direct plant feeder. Predaceous Coccinellids are linked to biological control more often than any other taxa of predatory organisms. Therefore, it is important to mass culture and release more adaptive Coccinellid species to wide range of environmental conditions. A study was carried out to find the most abundant Coccinellid species in field legume cultivations in different agroecological zones.

Cultivated legume fields were selected from climatic regions of Wet zone, Dry zone and Inter mediate zone. Samples were collected from the areas of field legume cultivating agroecological zones, which were randomly selected from the climatic regions. Number of Coccinellid species living in the samples was counted. Mean numbers of Coccinellids were calculated in each climatic region and agro-ecological zone. SAS package was used in the data analysis.

Six species of Coccinellids, *Coccinella transversalis, Cheilomenes sexmaculata, Coclophora cardini, Aspidimenes circumflexus, Micraspis discolor and Thea cincta* were found feeding on bean aphids in sampled fields. *C. sexmaculata* was significantly higher in number ($p<0.01$). Therefore, it was the most abundant species within climatic regions and the agroecological zones where the field legumes are cultivated. Therefore, it can be considered as a successful predator for mass culturing and field release for the management of bean aphids.