

Sucking pest spectrum of ratoon Brinjal in the mid country intermediate zone of Sri Lanka; a preliminary study

T Nagalingam*

School of Agriculture, Kundasale

A study was carried out to find out the sucking pest spectrum of the brinjal ratoon crop variety Lenairi and to examine the diversity indices of the pests in the mid country intermediate zone of Sri Lanka during the period 2004/2005. Ratoon brinjal crop variety Lenairi after one month of pruning was selected for the study and was randomly sampled in weekly interval and insect counts were made. Representative samples were preserved for the identification.

Species richness was found to be 6 and presence of 6 sucking pests namely mites (Acarina), aphids (Homoptera), whiteflies (Homoptera), mealybugs (Homoptera), leafhoppers (Homoptera) and lace bugs (Heteroptera) were observed. The diversity index of these pest insects was very low that is 0.6085, indicating that the pest species in the ratoon brinjal eco system have dissimilar relative abundance that is of low diversity and few species were dominant. The Shannon evenness index (E) of 0.34 also supports this result. The relative abundance of aphids and mites were high during the study period with the mean of 35.06 and 34.45 respectively followed by the relative abundance of mealybugs, leafhoppers, lace bugs and whiteflies.