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**Pest complex of ginger (*Zingiber officinale* L.) in Sri Lanka**

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Ginger has been cultivated in Sri Lanka for a long time. Even though, several insect pests cause damage to the crop, only few species have been documented. The main objective of this study was to record the pest complex of ginger in Sri Lanka. The study was conducted at the Export Agriculture Research Station, Matale during the period March to November 2009. Ten experimental plots (3 m x 1.2 m) from two different experimental sites were selected to observe pest occurrence. The spacing was 30cm x 30cm and the cultivar was Chinese ginger. Observations were carried out every two weeks and pest samples were collected when ever pests were available in the field. Those samples were reared in the laboratory and identified using reference samples and taxonomic keys. This experiment was also repeated in 2010. The pest species recorded were leaf eating caterpillars, *Udaspes folus* Godfrey (Lepidoptera: Limacoidae), *Leucoma salicis* L. (Lepidoptera: Limacoidae), *Spodoptera lituralis*, (Hubnur) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), leaf eating beetles, *Lasioderma serricorne*, (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Anobiidae), aphids, *Pentalonia nigronervosa* Cockerell (Hemiptera: Aphididae), locust sp. thrips, *Panchaetothrips indicus* (Bagnall) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), shoot borer, *Dichocrocis punctiferalis* (Guen.) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), rhizome scale, *Aspidiella hartii* (Cockerell) (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) and ginger maggots *Eumerus figurans* Walker (Diptera: Syrphidae).

None of the recorded pests caused economically important damage to the crop except the shoot borer and the rhizome scale. Shoot borer, *D. punctiferalis* is the most important pest in ginger and damage to shoots are caused by larvae feeding on the internal tissues of the pseudostems. Rhizome scales infest rhizomes in the field. The adult female scale is about 1mm in diameter and is circular in shape. It is light brown or grey in colour and appears as encrustations on the rhizome. Scales feed on sap and when the rhizomes are severely infested, they become shrivelled and desiccated affecting germination.