
Record of a Stem Borer on Cacao from India

A STEM borer has been observed to cause wilting and drying of some of the 3-4 year old cacao plants grown as an intercrop in the arecanut garden of the Station. The

external symptoms of attack are a round hole on the stem, drying of the upper portions above the hole, and excreta and chewed up fibres strewn out at the base of the plant. The larvae make unramified hollow tunnels inside the stem. Out of seven plants infested, four were dead, where the main stem had been attacked; and in the others, the attacked terminal branches alone had dried up.

The adult moths are white in colour. They are characterized by sexual dimorphism. The male moth is smaller with 21 mm length and 37 mm width, the female large with 32 mm length and 55 mm width. In the male the antenna is bipectinate almost upto the middle and filiform distally, and in the female, it is filiform throughout. The wings in the male overlap only a part of the abdomen, and in the female they cover the entire abdomen. The abdomen is slender and elongated ending in a brush of hairs in the male and it is broad and thick with a well developed ovipositor in the female. Longevity of adult in the laboratory is 6-7 days (male lived one day longer than female). The female lays about 510 eggs within 5 days. Full grown larva measures 42 mm in length and 6 mm in thickness. Head is prominent with very strong mandibles. Pupa is reddish brown in colour with a hard spine-like projection at

the anterior region. Pupa measures 27-32 mm in length and 3-5 mm in width. Pupal period lasts for 9-13 days.

The pest is identified as *Zeuzera coffeae* N. (family: Cossidae; subfamily: Cossioidea; order: Lepidoptera). It is well known as the red borer of coffee (Somasekhar, 1958). The related *Zeuzera nyrina* Linn. the leopard moth is destructive to the stem of many fruit trees in India (Imms, 1957; Metcalf and Flint, 1951).

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2. METCALF, C. L. AND FLINT, W. P. 1951. *Destructive and Useful Insects*, 802 p. Third ed. 1071 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York.
3. SOMASEKHAR, P. 1958. "Pests of Coffee and their Control". *Indian Coffee* 22 : 220-234.

ERRATA

Journal of Plantation Crops, Vol. 2, No. 1
(June 1974), page 38, para 2, line 5 : for
KNO₃ read HNO₃.