

INCIDENCE OF CYCLODES OMMA V. ON COCONUT

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Cyclodes omma V. has been recorded for the first time as a pest of coconut in Karnataka.

The caterpillars of this pest bore into immature nuts and feed on the internal contents inflicting serious damage (Fig.1). Such affected nuts later drop down. The pest made its appearance during August - September 1990 in a private coconut estate near Hunsur in Mysore district and during 1991, at the CPCRI, Research Centre, Hirehalli, Tumkur causing about 30-40% damage to developing nuts. The caterpillars when fully grown measure 60-70 mm, and feed mostly on female flowers or tender nuts. The fully fed caterpillar pupates in a brownish silken cocoon (Fig.2). The adult moth emerges out after 3 weeks of pupation. The adult is a noctuid moth, 25-30mm in length with a wing expanse of about 80mm.

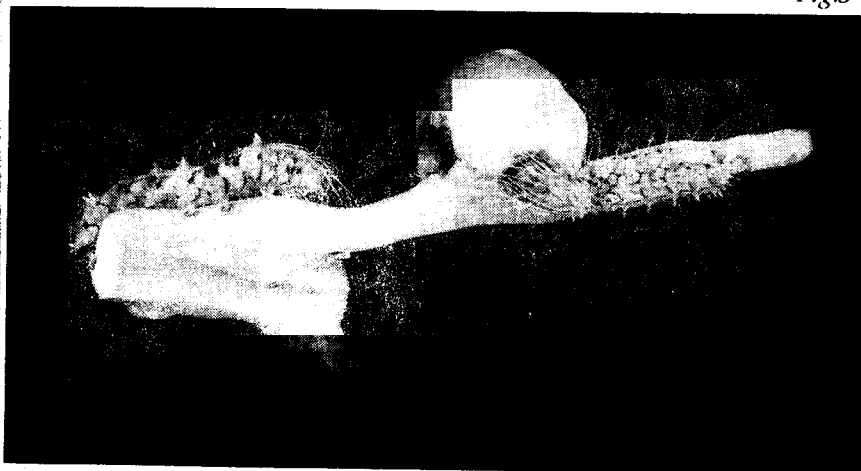


Fig.1 Caterpillars feeding on buttons

Dorsally it is greyish green in colour with two prominent circular spots on the fore wings (Fig. 3)

Lever (1969) has reported its incidence on immature nuts from In-



Fig.3 Adult moth

At present the pest, is of sporadic occurrence but, it seems to possess potentialities of becoming a severe pest on coconut in Karnataka State.

REFERENCES

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Fig. 2 Pupa

donesia, Kampuchea and Laos. Venkitasubban (1939) and Menon & Pandalai (1958) have recorded its incidence on coconut palms in Kerala.