

Biology of the sugar beet weevil *Bothynoderes obliquefasciatus* Menetries in the warm and dry regions of Esfahan province

**M., ZARRABI¹, G. NOURI GANBALANI², J. KHALAGHANI³,
S. MOHARRAMIPOUR¹**

Tarbiat Modarres University, College of Agriculture¹, Mohaghegh Ardabili University²,
Agricultural Organization of Bonyad³

ABSTRACT

In this study some of the important aspects of the biology of the sugar beet weevil *B. obliquefasciatus*, a serious pest of early season in warm and dry regions of Esfahan province, was investigated. The adult weevils emigrate from their hibernation sites and feed voraciously by on the cotyledons of the sugar beets upon their emergence. The female oviposite on the surface of the cotyledons. The first instar larvae emerge during 7 ± 0.73 days under the 28°C and 24% relative humidity condition. They make a hole in the leaf and fall down in cracks of the soil near the roots. They feed from the roots and complete their growth after 4 instar during 15-20 days then pupate in their feeding hole in roots or in a soil cocoon near the ground surface. Pupation period is 10-15 days. This pest has one generation annually and the new generation will overlap with the old one.

The population fluctuation studies in this region during 1990 and 2000 revealed that number of captured weevils increase slowly from May to June, based on the period of beet culturing, and then decrease. It increases again to its highest amount in July when the new generation appears and finally decreases till August.

Key words: *Bothynoderes obliquefasciatus*, Biology, Warm and Dry Regions, Esfahan

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Address of the authors: Engg. M. Zarrabi and Dr. S. Moharrampour, Tarbiat Modarres University, College of Agriculture; Dr. G. Nouri Ganbalani, Mohaghegh Ardabili University; Dr. J. Khalaghani, Agricultural Organization of Bonyad