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ROLE OF CULTURAL PRACTICES IN CONTROL OF
THE SUGAR CANE STEM BORER IN THE REGION
OF HAFT - TAPPEH; KHOOZESTAN¹

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SUMMARY

Sesamia nonagrioides botaniphaga TAMES & BOWDEN is an important pest of sugar cane in Haft - Tappeh plantations.

On sugar cane, it has four to five generations a year. Femals moths prefer to lay their eggs on young shoots of sugar cane, on the inner surface of leaf sheath.

The plants more than 100 centimeters high are not usually preferred ones for oviposition and infestation of these plants are usually occurred by migrating larvae.

Because of special weather conditions in Haft - Tappeh (See Table 1 & Fig. 1 in Farsi text) there are only six effective growth months, from Mid - April to the middle of October. The period of best growth starts in the late June.

The most important cultural practices effective in sugar cane growth and the rate of borer infestation are : harvesting operation, ratooning, irrigation and fertilization.

Canes at Haft - Tappeh are burned prior to harvest then hand cut

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and piled. Harvesting operation if done during winter months reduce sugar cane borer population, but if this operation continues during spring and summer months, quite apart from obvious loss in juice quality and amountn of sugar per hectar of the late harvested fields, there is also a real reduction in yield of ratoon crops and increasing of borer infestation (See Tables 2, 3 and Figs. 6, 7, 8 in Farsi text).

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