

BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF *SESAMIA NONAGRIOIDES* -*BOTANEPHAGA* IN THE FARS PROVINCE

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Summary

Sesamia nonagrioides botanephaga is a major pest of rice crop in most rice growing areas of the Fars province including Firoozabad, Mamassani, Kazeroon, Kherameh, Korbali and Estahban. The insect has three to four generations per year, overwinters as advanced (4th, 5th) larvae on rice roots, 5-10cm deep in the soil. In Firoozabad, development of the first generation appears on *Typha sp.*; the rice crop being attacked by the second and third generations.

In Mamassani, due to the late planting of rice, the first and the second generations thrive on *Typha sp.* and third and fourth generations attack rice.

Certain cultural and chemical measures can be recommended in order to avoid losses by the insect in the Fars Province. Because of the high larvae density on lower parts of stems at the time of harvest, the rice stems must be cut near the soil surface and taken out of the field. Winter flooding in January, deep plowing in March and cutting back *Typha* in May are effective in reducing the population of the insect.

Experiments on chemical control showed that three spray applications of Diazinon 60% emulsion at the rate of 21ai/ha on 6 July, 23 August and 1 September respectively, increased the yield paddy by 545kg/ha.

References

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