

**BIOLOGY AND POPULATION FLUCTUATION OF POTATO TUBER
MOTH *PHTHORIMAEA OPERCULELLA* (ZELLER) IN KARAJ**

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Summary

Potato tuber moth *Phthorimaea operculella* (Z.) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) was observed and introduced for the first time in Karaj in 1985.

It was a new pest for potato in Iran and because of its importance, investigations started immediately. The results showed that under the environmental condition of Karaj the insect had 5 generations per year, with a 33 days average longevity. This insect overwintered mostly as larvae inside the tubers in different depths of the soil. The maximum numbers of adults came from the infested tubers located in 10-20 depth of soil. The insect also damaged the eggplant, tobacco, tomato and some species of Solanaceae family such as *Solanum nigrum* and *Datura stramonium*.

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