

BIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF SUGAR CAN STEM BORER

SESAMIA NONAGRIOIDES LEF. (LEP. NOCTUIDAE)

IN HAFT TAPPEH

M. DANIALI (1)

Plant Pests and Diseases Research Laboratory, Ahwaz, Iran

Abstract

Three years of investigation on the biology of the sugar cane stem borer (*Sesmaia nonagrioides* Lef.) under Haft Tappeh conditons showed that it may produce 4-5 generations per year.

Because of the milder weather conditons in the spring and autumn, the duration of the first and fourth generations is longer than that in the summer (second and third generations).

This pest has neither summer nor winter diapause under Haft Tappeh conditions, even the larval activites increase as temperature increases during the summer months.

By the beginning of cold weather, usually in the middle of Aban (November), the larvae cease their feeding activities; the feeding is confined only to warm days during the winter.

The female moths lay eggs in groups, often on young sugar cane plants. During the summer, egg-laying adults migrate from the middle of the fields towards the edges, especially around irrigation ditches, where they are more likely to find new shoots (mature cane inhibits growth of young shoots) and volunteer plants.

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1) Eng. M. Daniali, P. O. B. 19, Haft Tappeh, IRAN