BIOLOGY OF THE *ORIA MUSCOLOSA* HB.

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The high population of Oria musculosa Hb. was observed in year 1966 in the barley growing area of Bandar Shah. The life history of this insect has been studied in the years 1966 – 1974 in this area.

Description

The moth is 12 – 16 mm in length and forewing spread is 30 – 35 mm. It is bright brown-white colour. The forewings are yellowish-white with white hindwing (Fig. I). The egg is globular slightly flat and 0.5 mm in diameter. The larva is 23 – 26 mm long and its colour is apple green with four grey longitudinal band run over the dorsum.

The pupa is 15–16 mm long its colour is light brown-red. The end of the abdomen has two cremaster with two spines in the both side.

Life History

The first appearance of moth in this region is about the end of May to beginning of June depending on the climate. During the day, the adults hide among the leaves of the host, while they lay their eggs at night in concealed places between the brachet and stem. Female begins egg laying two days after emergence from the pupal cell. The eggs are laid in one or two row on the host plants like darnel, barley etc. (Fig. 3) In Bandar Shah area the first plant to be chosen for egg laying is darnel. The eggs laying continue up to four days. The total eggs laying occured in one to three times. Each time 11 – 68 eggs with totally up to 291 eggs per female has been counted. Maximal 361 eggs has been collected from one female. The diapouse and incubation period of the eggs lasts up to six months from early May to November. The neonate larva consumes the shell and then move to hostplant and feed upon the young barley stem. During sever attacks the crop may be exterminated.

The completion of the larval stages coincident with the creal growing. In March and April when

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wheat and barley go to the stems making period, the larvae ascends to the tip of the stem and feeds upon the kernel. Fig. shows the last damage caused by the mature larvae which may go to other stems. The larval stages take about 3 – 4 months and last by the end of April.

Upon the termination of its development the larva seeks a sheltered spot in the upper layers of the soil (2 – 8 cm deep) for pupation, and pupate there within 3 – 4 days. The length of pupal stage depends upon temperature and varies from 15 – 27 days.

References

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