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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PLANT PROTECTION
VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 1 | APRIL, 2016 | 52-57

● e ISSN-0976-6855 | Visit us : *www.researchjournal.co.in*

IJPP

RESEARCH PAPER

DOI : 10.15740/HAS/IJPP/9.1/52-57

Seasonal incidence of *Dipha aphidivora* Meyrick (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) in Bhadra command areas

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ARITCLE INFO

Received : 14.10.2015
Revised : 09.02.2016
Accepted : 23.02.2016

KEY WORDS :
Seasonal incidences, *Dipha aphidivora*, SWA, Sugarcane, Weather

ABSTRACT

Investigation on the seasonal incidences of *Dipha aphidivora* Meyrick (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) and its natural enemies from June 2005 to May 2006 undertaken at Agricultural Research Station, Honnavile, Bhadravathi and Shimoga district revealed an incidence ranging from 1.6 to 7.2 larvae per plant recorded at Shimoga district (Location I, Shettihalli), 1.1 to 7.9 larvae per plant at Shimoga district (Location II, Honnavile), 0.7 to 6.9 larvae per plant at Bhadravathi taluk (Location III, Barandur) and 1.2 to 6.5 larvae per plant at Bhadravathi taluk (Location IV, Tadsa). The highest incidence of 7.2, 7.9, 6.5 larvae per plant was observed during October month at Shimoga district, (Location I, Shettihalli), (location II, Honnavile) and Bhadravathi taluka (Location IV, Tadsa) and 6.5 larvae per plant was observed during September month at Bhadravathi taluk (Location III, Barandur). The lowest population of 1.6 and 1.1 larvae per plant was recorded during July month at location I, II, 0.7, and 1.2 larvae per plant was recorded at location III and location IV. The *D. aphidivora* population had two peaks in a year one at October and another at January. The correlation between the *D. aphidivora* population and weather parameters revealed that the incidence of *D. aphidivora* was negatively correlated with minimum temperature, maximum temperature and rainfall and positively correlated with relative humidity in all the four locations. The correlation between *D. aphidivora* population and SWA population showed significant positive correlation at location I, location III and location IV and non-significant negative correlation at location II. The natural enemies recorded on *D. aphidivora* were the field lizards and an unidentified bird, which devoured *D. aphidivora*. No parasites were recorded on *D. aphidivora*.

How to view point the article : Mythri, Hugar, S.V. and Pradeep, S. (2016). Seasonal incidence of *Dipha aphidivora* Meyrick (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) in Bhadra command areas. *Internat. J. Plant Protec.*, **9**(1) : 52-57.

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