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# Seasonal incidence of shoot and fruit borer, *Leucinodes* orbonalis (Guenee) on brinjal in relation to weather parameters

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#### **Abstract**

Investigation entitled "Seasonal Incidence of Shoot and Fruit Borer, *Leucinodes orbonalis* (Guenee) on brinjal in relation to weather parameters" was carried out at Horticulture farm, S.K.N. College of Agriculture, Jobner (Rajasthan) in Kharif, 2017. The infestation of shoot and fruit borer, *L. orbonalis* on shoots of brinjal (1.65%) commenced in the third week of July and reached to its peak (29.10%) in the last week of August and on fruits (13.20 and 10.80% both on number and weight basis) it started in the first week of October, reached to maximum (61.10 and 58.10% both on number and weight basis) in the last week of October. The infestation of *L. orbonalis* on shoots of brinjal and on fruits both on number and weight basis it had significant positive correlation (r = 0.670, r = 0.604 and r = 0.597, respectively) with maximum temperature.

Keywords: Seasonal incidence, Leucinodes orbonalis, weather parameters, correlation, brinjal etc.

#### Introduction

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) also known as eggplant, belong to family Solanceae, is an important vegetable crop grown throughout the world, especially in South Asia and it is the native of India. Brinjal is known for *ayurvedic* medicinal properties, especially white brinjal is said to be good for diabetic patients (Fageria *et al.*, 2003) <sup>[3]</sup>. It has high nutritive value and contains all the essential minerals, vitamins and amino acids.

India stand second in production and productivity in the world after china which is mainly grown in the states like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In India the total area under brinjal cultivation is 6.80 lakh hectares with an annual production of 127.06 lakh tonnes (Anonymous, 2015) [1]. During 2014-15, the area and production of brinjal in Rajasthan was 64.60 thousand hectares and 21.23 million tonnes, respectively. It is generally grown in Alwar, Jaipur, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bundi, Baran and Kota districts of Rajasthan during summer and rainy season.

The brinjal crop is attacking by a number of insect - pests right from germination to harvesting of the crop *viz.*; shoot and fruit borer, *Leucinodes orbonalis* (Guenee), jassid, *Amrasca* biguttula *biguttula* (Ishida), aphid, *Aphis gossypii* (Glover), whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* (Genn.), lacewing bug, *Urentius echinus* (Distant), *epilachna* beetle, *Epilachna vigintioctopunctata* (Fabr.) and stem borer, *Euzophera perticella* (Ragonot). Listed 53 insects attacking on brinjal, out of them shoot and fruit borer, *L. orbonalis* is one of the major constraints in achieving potential yield. It remains active throughout the year with many overlapping generations.

The caterpillar initially attacks the terminal shoot and bore inside as a result of which, dropping and wilting of shoots occur. In the later stage, it also bores into the young fruits by making holes and feed inside. Such fruits, being partially unfit for human consumption and lose their market value (Butani and Jotwani, 1984) [2].

Various factors are responsible for low productivity and production of brinjal that include adverse climate, poor quality seeds, diseases, insect and mite pests. The insects and mites are of prime importance which significantly affects both the quality and production of brinjal. Due to variation in the agro climatic conditions of different regions insects show varying trends in their incidence, nature and extent of damage to the crop. Suitable understanding of the seasonal incidence of shoot and fruit borer is important due to variation in the weather conditions and changing pest status, in order to prevent the infestation of the insect pests and to produce a quality crop, it is essential to manage the pest population at appropriate time with suitable measures. So as such the studies were undertaken to find out the correlation between pest population and weather parameters to know the most favorable condition for buildup of pest population.

#### Materials and Methods

For the study of seasonal incidence of *L. orbonalis* on brinjal in relation to weather parameters, variety 'Pusa Purple Round' was transplanted on  $6^{th}$  July 2017 in five plots of 3.0 x 3.0 m<sup>2</sup> size keeping row to row and plant to plant distance of 60 and 50 cm, respectively.

#### Observation

For this purpose, the crop was left for natural infestation of L. orbonalis. Five plants per plot were randomly selected and tagged for observation. The observations on shoot infestation by L. orbonalis were recorded on tagged plants by visual counting of shoots from initiation of infestation on shoots to last picking of the fruits at weekly interval. The percent shoot infestation was calculated by counting the total number of shoots and the number of infested shoots. In case of fruit infestation observations were recorded on the percentage of infested fruits both on number and weight basis by counting and weighing infested and healthy fruits at each picking on tagged plants. The data recorded on shoot and fruit infestation and meteorological parameters were used for statistical analysis (Panse and Sukhatme, 1967) [13]. The simple correlation was computed between per centshoot and fruit infestation and weather parameters, viz.; maximum and minimum temperatures, relative humidity and rainfall. The following formula was used for calculating correlation coefficient (Gupta, 1996) [4].

$$r = \frac{N \sum xy - (\sum x) (\sum y)}{\sqrt{N \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2 \cdot N \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2}}$$

#### Where,

r = Simple correlation coefficient

x = Independent variable i.e. abiotic component

y = Number of observations

N = Dependent variable i.e. pest

#### **Results and Discussion**

The data present in table -1 revealed that the infestation of shoot and fruit borer on shoots of brinjal was initiated in the third week of July (29<sup>th</sup> SMW) with 1.65 per cent infestation. The infestation increased gradually and reached to its peak with a mean of 29.10 per cent infestation in the last week of August (35<sup>th</sup> SMW). Thereafter, infestation declined gradually from October and reached to the minimum (3.33%) in the second week of October (41<sup>th</sup> SMW). The infestation of shoot and fruit borer shifted on fruits of brinjal from shoots as the fruiting started. The infestation of pest on fruits (table -2) initiated in the first week of October (40<sup>th</sup> SMW) *i.e.*, 13.20

per cent on number and 10.80 per cent on weight basis, which gradually increased and reached to its peak (61.10% on number and 58.10% on weight basis in the last week of October (43<sup>th</sup> SMW). Thereafter the infestation in fruits started decaling *i.e.*, 10.25 per cent on number basis and 7.33 per cent on weight basis) in the second week of December (50<sup>th</sup> SMW).

The correlation data presented in table- 3 revealed that the shoot infestation had a significant positive correlation with maximum temperature (r=0.670) and significant negative correlation with minimum temperature (r=-0.570), relative humidity (r=-0.695) and rainfall (r=-0.556). The fruit infestation had a significant positive correlation with maximum temperature (r=0.604 on number and r=0.597 on weight basis), which showed that when temperature increased, the infestation of pest in fruits were also increased. Whereas, it had non-significant correlation with minimum temperature (r=0.490 on number basis and 0.485 on weight basis), and significant negative with relative humidity (r=-0.557 and -0.553). During the crop season rainfall is not occurred.

The present results are in partial agreement with Singh et al. (2000) [14] who observed the infestation of pest on the top shoots of brinjal during the end of August with peak in the third week of September. They found positive role of temperature and negative role of humidity on the multiplication of the pest fully support the present findings. Kushwaha et al. (2015) [9] reported the incidence of pest during July to December. Jat et al. (2002) [5] reportedthe Infestation of pest on the fruits of brinjal in the third week of September and peak in the first week of November and positively correlated with maximum temperatureand nonsignificant with minimum temperature support the present findings. The results were also in agreement with Mahesh and Men (2007) [10] observed peak infestation of L. orbonalis on the fruits during mid of October. Singh et al. (2006) [15] reported that infestation of L. orbonalis on brinjal started in the first week of October and reached to its peak in the second the fortnight of October. Oommen and Kumar (2004) [12] reported that the infestation of L. orbonalis on brinjal fruits commenced from the last week of September and reached to the maximum during the third week of October, thereafter, declined corroborate the present findings. Kumar et al. (2017) [8] reported that incidence of L. orbonalis on brinjal was significantly affected by temperature and less by other environmental factors, support the present findings. The present findings also get support with the findings of Kumar and Singh (2013)<sup>[7]</sup> and Kumar et al. (2014)<sup>[6]</sup>.

Table 1: Seasonal incidence of shoot and fruit borer, Leucinodes orbonalis (Guenee) on shoots of brinjal in relation to weather parameters

C N.	SMW	Data of the second to the	Shoot infestation (%)**	Temperature ( <sup>0</sup> C)		D-1-4' 1' 1'4 (0/)	D - ! ( II ()
5. No.		Date of observations		Maximum	Minimum	Relative humidity (%)	Rainfall (mm)
1	29	20.7.17	1.65	34.20	25.60	79.00	26.00
2	30	27.7.17	3.50	31.50 24.80 81.00		24.20	
3	31	3.8.17	7.18	29.40	24.00	81.00	5.00
4	32	10.8.17	11.40	32.60	24.00	71.00	0.00
5	33	17.8.17	16.35	34.10	21.70	59.00	0.00
6	34	24.8.17	23.67	34.80	24.70	71.00	28.60
7	35	31.8.17	29.10	32.80	24.50	75.00	9.80
8	36	7.9.17	21.87	33.30	23.20	65.00	0.00
9	37	14.9.17	17.30	36.00	23.90	69.00	17.60
10	38	21.9.17	11.75	36.60	21.20	53.00	0.00
11	39	28.9.17	8.10	36.00	18.40	52.00	0.00

12	40	5.10.17	5.00	35.60	15.60	37.00	0.00
13	41	12.10.17	3.33	36.20	15.40	39.00	0.00

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at 5 per cent level of significance

SMW: Standard Meteorological Weeks

Table 2: Seasonal incidence of shoot and fruit borer, Leucinodes orbonalis (Guenee) on fruits of brinjal in relation to weather parameters

S. No.	SMW	Date of observations	Fruit infestation (%) **		Temperature ( <sup>0</sup> C)		Dalatina h	Dainfall ()
			Number basis	Weight basis	Maximum	Minimum	Relative humidity (%)	Rainfall (mm)
1	40	05.10.17	13.20	10.80	35.60	15.60	37.00	0.00
2	41	12.10.17	33.80	30.75	36.20	15.40	39.00	0.00
3	42	19.10.17	50.20	48.50	35.80	13.80	40.00	0.00
4	43	26.10.17	61.10	58.10	36.00	12.60	42.00	0.00
5	44	02.11.17	52.80	50.90	30.30	11.90	43.00	0.00
6	45	09.11.17	38.20	36.33	31.90	11.20	45.00	0.00
7	46	16.11.17	27.20	25.50	29.60	11.60	51.00	0.00
8	47	23.11.17	21.67	19.75	25.70	5.60	51.00	0.00
9	48	30.11.17	17.45	15.10	28.80	5.90	51.00	0.00
10	49	07.12.17	13.20	10.95	25.10	6.80	53.00	2.20
11	50	14.12.17	10.25	7.33	24.50	7.20	57.00	0.00

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at 5 per cent level of significance

SMW: Standard Meteorological Weeks

**Table 3:** Correlation coefficient between the infestation of shoot and fruit borer, *Leucinodes orbonalis* (Guenee) on brinjal and weather parameters

Correlation coefficient(r)							
Particulars	Shoot infestation (%)	Fruit infestation (%)					
Farticulars	Shoot illestation (76)	Number basis	Weight basis				
Maximum temperature	0.670	0.604	0.597				
Minimum temperature	-0.570	0.490	0.485				
Relative humidity	-0.695	-0.557	-0.553				
Rainfall	-0.556	-	-				

<sup>\*</sup> Significant at 5 per cent level significance

#### Conclusion

On the basis of results, it may be concluded that the infestation of *L. orbonalis* on shoots of brinjal and on fruits both on number and weight basis it had significant positive correlation with maximum temperature, means when rise in temperature then increases the in infestation of this insect on shoots as well as fruits of brinjal

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Mean of five plots

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