A New Record of Nanaguna as a Pest of Pigeonpea in Orissa, India

During the rainy season, 1982, Nanaguna breviuscula Walker (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) was recorded for the first time on pigeonpea at the Regional Research Institute, Chiplima, Sambalpur. In the published literature (Davies and Lateef 1975; Srivastava 1980) nothing is indicated about this insect on pigeonpea. The activity of this insect commenced from the 2nd week of October and continued until mid-November. Prior to flowering the larvae webbed the terminal shoots and concealed themselves in the webs. The larvae fed on the leaves, made circular holes in the pods, and damaged the developing seed. The percentage of pods damaged ranged from 0.6 to 2.10 resulting in 0.5 to 2.0% loss in weight of seed. Nearly 10% of the damaged pods harbored Nanaguna larvae.

The moths are stout, approximately 8 mm long with a 20-22 mm wing expanse. The fore wings are dark grayish, the hind wings are smoky in color. The anal margins of the hind wings are dark. The male moth can be distinguished from the female by the presence of a tuft of anal hairs and bunch of buff colored hairs on the anterior margin of the hind wing (Fig. 19). The newly hatched larvae are green. The fully-grown larvae are active, and are about 17 mm long.

We are grateful to Dr. J.D. Holloway, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London, for the identification of the insect.

References


Parasites of a Pigeonpea Mealy Bug, Ceroplastodes cajani Masq

Older pigeonpea plants are often infested with mealy bugs, particularly if they are allowed to grow for a second season. However, these insects are commonly heavily parasitized. From 1979 to 1982, Ceroplastodes cajani Mask (Coccidae: Hemiptera), which is one of the most common mealy bugs attacking pigeonpeas at ICRISAT Center, was sampled for parasites. Infested twigs and stems, which had been collected from our fields, were placed in glass jars and observed for parasite emergence in the laboratory. The following Hymenoptera emerged from the mealy bugs and were identified by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London.

- Marietta javensis (Howard) Aphelinidae
- Promuscaidae sp
- Anagyrus sp pseudococcii group Encyrtidae
- Anagyrus sp
- Microryctyra sp Encyrtidae
- Anysis australiensis Howard Pteromalidae
- Euopteromalus parnarae Gahan Pteromalidae
- Pteromalus sp

- V.S. Bhatnagar, D.R. Jadhav, and C.S. Pawar (ICRISAT)