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Per cent Incidence and study of various life stages of *Helicoverpa armigera* on chickpea

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Abstract

The Present study revealed that the incidence of eggs, Ist to IIIrd instar larvae, IVth and Vth instar larva, pre-pupal larva of *H. armigera* was observed from 49th MW to 4th MW, 48th to 4th MW, 49th to 4th MW, 49th to 4th MW, 49th to 4th MW, 49th to 3rd MW respectively. While studying the various life stages, parasitoids *viz., Eriborus spp.* and *Campoletis chlorideae*, NPV and other reasons were found the most effective mortality factors. The overall mortality in Ist to IIIrd, IVth to Vth instar larvae, pre-pupal larva, and pupa was 30.77 and 31.37 15.49, and 31.67 per cent respectively due to different reasons *viz.,* unknown, incomplete pupation and HaNPV, pupal deformities (no adult emergence). The Male: Female sex ratio was 1:1.35. The adult emergence was 68.33 per cent and the fecundity observed was 409.64 eggs/female.

Keywords: Per cent incidence, study of various, Helicoverpa armigera

Introduction

Chickpea (Cicer arietinum) is one of the most widely cultivated pulse crops in India. It is the third most important grain legume of the world ^[16, 15] grown in more than 50 countries. Among the biotic factors responsible for low yield of chickpea, damage due to insect pest is the major limiting factor. It suffers from damage by the pod borer *Helicoverpa armigera* – a major yield reducing factor. Pod borer damage varies considerably in different agroclimatic regions in India. Helicoverpa armigera is a cosmopolitan, multivoltine and highly polyphagous pest which attacks a number of crops of agricultural importance all over the world. H. armigera is highly polyphagous, cosmopolitan, devastating and worldwide distributed pest ^[16, 14]. It is the endemic pest which damages chickpea from 20 to 100% ^[18]. Yield losses due to this pest in chickpea may range from 70 to 95 per cent ^[10]. In favorable condition to pod borer, pod damage goes 90-95 per cent ^[17, 12]. A single caterpillar of this pest can damage 25-40 pods ^[13]. Farmers have become reluctant to cultivate chickpea due to his susceptibility to pod borer. Therefore, information on the incidence, population fluctuation, damage severity, various life stages study, natural key mortality factors is necessary for developing an IPM approach. In this context, the present work framed to know per cent incidence and key mortality factors by studying various life stages of Helicoverpa armigera on chickpea.

2. Methodology

During the experiment, Chickpea variety 'JAKI-9218' was cultivated without the selection pressure of insecticides on field, for Study of per cent incidence of *H. armigera*. And further various life stages study was carried out in Toxicology laboratory of Department of Entomology Dr. PDKV, Akola during the year 2015-2016.

2.1 Sampling procedure

Regular field visits were made in order to record the first incidence of *H. armigera* (egg stages) on chickpea. Counting of number of insects in the available stage was done with the appearance of insect on the crops. The sampling of *H. armigera* was carried out from the unsprayed chickpea plots from the beginning of pest incidence till incidence exist on the crop at an interval of 7 days and every time 10 randomly selected spot, each spot of one Meter Row Length (MRL) was examined for recording insect population. The absolute pest population was computed on hectare basis for preparing the life table. The samples were collected in the morning hours.

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2.1.1 Eggs

Eggs were collected from ten randomly selected spots, each spot of one-meter row length (MRL) unsprayed chickpea crop. The collected eggs were reared singly in the plastic vials till hatching. The observations were recorded on the number of the eggs hatching into larva, per cent parasitization, type of parasitoid and those remained unhatched, separately.

2.1.2 Larvae

The larvae belonging to the small age group (younger larvae) i.e. I^{st} , II^{nd} and III^{rd} instar (together) and bigger age group (older larvae) i.e. IV^{th} and V^{th} (together) were collected from 10 MRL plants of chickpea and kept in the plastic vials individually to avoid cannibalism in the laboratory till the pupation. Mortality and survival rate of each instar/group of larvae were also recorded.

2.1.3 Pre-pupae

About 25 full grown larvae i.e. pre-pupae were collected from experimental plots and they were allowed to pupate in the laboratory in the plastic vials provided with sterilized soil and reared in laboratory separately till adult emergence ^[8]. Survival rate, parasitoid emergence, male and female ratio was obtained from pupal morphology.

2.1.4 Adults

The adults were emerged out from the pupae obtained from the field collected larval population and were sorted out into male and female and known adult pairs were confined in mating cum oviposition chamber to record the fecundity per female.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Survival and mortality of various life stages of *H. armigera* on chickpea

3.1.1 Egg

Incidence of *H. armigera* eggs were observed on the chickpea plants, from 49^{th} MW to 4^{th} MW. However, the highest incidence i.e. 23 eggs per 10 MRL was noticed in the 52^{nd} MW, while lowest i.e. 5 eggs per 10 MRL in 4^{th} MW.

The natural egg mortality of *H. armigera* was observed ranging between 10 to 28.57 per cent. Whereas, the highest egg mortality i.e. 28.57 per cent was observed on 49^{th} MW and lowest in the 2^{nd} MW i.e. 10 per cent. However, the reasons for mortality of eggs were unknown (may be unviability).

While the survival rate was maximum i.e. 0.90 during 2nd MW and minimum i.e. 0.71 during 49th MW. The overall mortality noticed during the period was 19.10 per cent with survival rate of 0.81 represented in Table 5.

The above result regarding highest incidence of eggs in 52^{nd} MW is in close confirmation with the studies conducted by ^[9].

Regarding overall mortality in egg stage these results are in close confirmation with the research findings of ^[3], who reported that *H. armigera* on chickpea recorded overall 14.55 per cent mortality in egg stage, due to unviability.

3.1.2 Ist to IIIrd instar (younger larvae)

Incidence of *H. armigera* larvae was observed on the chickpea from 48^{th} MW to 4^{th} MW. However, the highest incidence of larvae i.e. 25 larvae per 10 MRL were observed in 51^{st} MW and lowest incidence 3 larvae per 10 MRL were noticed in 4^{th} MW.

The data regarding per cent mortality of *H. armigera* larvae revealed that the Ist to IIIrd instar larvae collected from field were found parasitized by *Campoletis chlorideae* (Fig 2) and *Eriborus spp.* (Fig 1). The per cent mortality of Ist to IIIrd instar larvae was in the range of 21.43 to 35.29 per cent. The highest mortality was observed in the 52^{nd} MW i.e. 35.29 per cent and lowest 21.43 per cent in the 50^{th} MW.

The *C. chlorideae* was found most effective during 49th MW (3-9 December) and 1st MW (1-7 January) recording the overall larval mortality of 8.65 per cent. The per cent mortality of Ist to IIIrd instar larvae due to *Eriborus spp.* was in the range of 5.56 to 33.33 per cent. The highest mortality was observed in the 4th MW i.e. 33.33 per cent and lowest 5.56 per cent in the 51st MW due to *Eriborus spp.* The survival rate was maximum i.e. 0.79 during 50th MW and minimum i.e. 0.65 during 52nd MW (Table 1).





Adult

Fig 1: E. argenteopilosus recorded on early instar (I to III instar)



Fig 2: C. chlorideae recorded on early instar (I to II instar)

Stage of insect	Meteorological Week	Period of Week	Mortality factor	Survival rate	Per cent mortality
	49	26 Nov- 2 Dec	Unknown (2)	0.73	18.18
	48		C. chlorideae (1)	0.75	9.09
	49	03-09 Dec	Unknown (3)	0.69	18.75
	49	03-09 Dec	C. chlorideae (2)	0.09	12.5
Larvae	50	10-16 Dec	C. chlorideae (1)	0.79	7.14
	50	10-10 Dec	Eriborus spp. (2)	0.79	14.29
			Unknown (2)		11.11
	51	17-23 Dec	C. chlorideae (2)	0.67	11.11
			Eriborus spp. (1)		5.56

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		HaNPV (1)		5.56
	24-31 Dec	Unknown (3)	0.65	17.65
52		C. chlorideae (1)		5.88
52	24-51 Dec	Eriborus spp. (1)		5.88
		HaNPV (1)		5.88
1	01-07 Jan	Unknown (3)	0.60	18.75
1	01-07 Jali	Jan Unknown (3) C. chlorideae (2) 0.69	12.5	
2	08-14 Jan	Unknown (2)	0.67	22.22
2		Eriborus spp. (1)	0.07	11.11
3	15-21 Jan	-	_	-
4	22- 28 Jan	Eriborus spp.	0.67	33.33

3.1.3 $IV^{th} \,and \, V^{th} \,instar \,(older \, larvae)$

Highest incidence of IVth and Vth instar larvae i.e. 12 larvae per 10 MRL was noticed in 52nd MW and lowest incidence of larvae i.e. 3 larvae per 10 MRL was noticed in 4th MW.

The highest mortality of older larvae was found in 52nd MW (24-31 December) i.e. 18.18 per cent and lowest in 51st and 1st MW i.e. 12.5 per cent due to incomplete pupation. Mortality due to Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (Fig 3) was observed in 51st, 1st and 3rd MW with mortality of 12.5, 12.5 and 25 per cent, respectively. However, mortality due to unknown reasons were observed to the extent of 12.5 to 33.33 per cent during 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 2nd and 4th MW.

The survival rate was maximum i.e. 0.80 during 50th MW (10-16 December) and minimum i.e. 0.63 during 51st MW (17-23 December) (Table 2).

Regarding the larval mortality of *H. armigera* due to unknown reasons, incomplete pupation and HaNPV is in

corroboration with the research findings of the research workers viz; $^{[6, 2, 3, 11]}$ and $^{[7]}$.



Fig 3: Viral disease (HaNPV) infection observed on early instar (I to III) and late instar (IV and V)

Table 2: Survival and Mortality in IVth and Vth instar (older larvae) of *H. armigera* on chickpea.

Stage of insect	Meteorological Week	Period of Week	Mortality factor	Survival rate	Per cent mortality
	48	36 Nov-2 Dec	-	-	-
	49	03-09 Dec	Unknown (1)	0.67	16.67
	49	03-09 Dec	Incomplete pupation (1)	0.07	16.67
	50	10-16 Dec	Unknown	0.80	20
		17-23 Dec	Unknown (1)		12.5
	51		Incomplete pupation (1)	0.63	12.5
Larvae	HaNPV (1)	12.5			
Larvae	52	24-31 Dec	Unknown (2)	0.64	18.18
	52	24-31 Dec	Incomplete pupation (2)	0.04	18.18
	1	01-07 Jan	Incomplete pupation (1)	0.75	12.5
	1	01-07 Jan	HaNPV (1) 0.75		12.5
	2	08-14 Jan	8-14 Jan Unknown		33.33
	3	15-21 Jan	HaNPV (1)	0.75	25
	4	22-28 Jan	Unknown	0.67	33.33

3.1.4 Pre-pupae

The mortality in pre-pupal larvae was observed in the range of 8.70 to 23.81 per cent and it was due to some abiotic factors. The overall mortality due to unknown reasons and incomplete pupation was 8.45 and 7.04 per cent, respectively. Highest mortality observed in 2^{nd} MW i.e. 23.81 per cent and lowest 52^{nd} MW i.e. 8.70. However, the survival rate was in the range

of 0.76 to 0.91 in different MW and overall mortality was15.49 per cent with the survival rate of 0.85 (Table 3). This finding is in close confirmation with the studies conducted by ^[5] who reported that the pre-pupal larvae of *H. armigera* is reduced by Tachinid fly, unknown factors and incomplete pupation on chickpea.

Stage of insect	Meteorological week	Period of week	Mortality factor	Survival rate	Per cent mortality
Pre-pupa	48	26 Nov-02Dec	-	-	-
	49	02.00 D	Unknown (2)	0.84	10.53
	49	03-09 Dec	Incomplete pupation (1)	0.84	5.26
	50	10-16 Dec Unknown (1)			4.35
	50	10-10 Dec	Incomplete pupation (2)	0.87	8.70
	51 17-23 Dec	Unknown (2)		9.52	
	51	17-25 Dec	Incomplete pupation (1)	0.86	4.76
	52	24-31 Dec	Unknown (1)	0.91	4.35

			Incomplete pupation (1)		4.35
	1	01.07 Ion	Unknown (2)	0.85	10
	1 01-07 Ja		Incomplete pupation (1)	0.85	5
	2	09.14 Jan	Unknown (2)		9.52
	2	08-14 Jan	Incomplete pupation (3)	0.76	14.29
	3 15-21 Jan	15 01 Ion	Unknown (2)	80	13.33
		13-21 Jan	Incomplete pupation (1)	80	6.67

3.1.5 Pupae

The maximum pupal mortality was observed in 2^{nd} MW i.e. 37.50 per cent and lowest 25 per cent in 3^{rd} MW. However, the survival rate of pupae was noted maximum in 3^{rd} MW (0.75), followed by 51^{st} MW (0.72).

From pupae, adults could not emerge or failed to complete the development (without any deformity) and thus, act as key mortality factor during pupal stage. Such mortality was highest in 1st MW (17.65 per cent) and lowest in 50th MW (5 per cent). The mortality achieved due to pupal deformity (no adult emergence) (Fig.4) was highest during 49th MW (18.75 per cent) and lowest during 50th MW (10 per cent). Whereas,

the mortality caused due to unsuccessful adult emergence was 15, 4.76 and 12.5 per cent in 50^{th} , 52^{nd} and 2^{nd} MW, respectively.

The overall mortality noticed during research work was 31.67 per cent with survival rate of 0.68. Among that 13.33, 13.33 and 5 per cent mortality in pupae, respectively due to pupal deformity (no adult emergence) (Fig 5), adults not emerged (without any deformity) and unsuccessful adult emergence were noticed, respectively (Table 4).

Regarding the pupal mortality in *H. armigera* due to pupal deformity, adults not emerged and unsuccessful emergence recorded in adults are in corroboration with the studies of ^[3] on chickpea, ^[4] on cotton and ^[2] on pigeon pea.



Fig 4: Deformities found in pupa

Fig 5: Deformities found in Adult

Stage of insect	Meteorological week	Period of week	Mortality factor	Survival rate	Per cent mortality
	49	03-09 Dec	Pupal deformity (3)	0.69	18.75
	49	03-09 Dec	Adults not emerged (2)	0.09	12.5
	50	10-16 Dec	Pupal deformity (2)		10
	50	10-10 Dec	Adults not emerged (1)	0.70	5
			Unsuccessful adult emergence (3)	0.70	15
	51	17 22 Dec	Pupal deformity (2)		11.11
	51	17-23 Dec Adults not emerged (3)		0.72	16.67
	52	24-31 Dec	Pupal deformity (3)		14.29
Pupa			Adults not emerged (3)	0.67	14.29
			Unsuccessful adult emergence (1)		4.76
	1	01-07 Jan	Pupal deformity (3)	0.65	17.65
	1	01-07 Jali	Adults not emerged (3) 0.65		17.65
	2	08-14 Jan	Pupal deformity (2)		12.5
	2	08-14 Jali	Adults not emerged (2)	0.63	12.5
			Unsuccessful adult emergence (2)	0.05	12.5
	3	15-21 Jan	Pupal deformity (1)	0.75	16.67
			Adults not emerged (2)	0.75	8.33

Table 4: Survival and mortality in pupae of *H. armigera* on chickpea

3.1.6 Per cent pupation

The highest pupation (91.30 per cent) was observed during 52nd MW (24-31 December) while lowest i.e. 76.19 per cent observed during 2nd MW. Per cent pupation was in the range of 76.19 to 91.30 per cent. The overall per cent pupation

during study period was 84.51 per cent. The present findings on per cent pupation are in close confirmation with the research findings conducted by ^[3] who reported 81.98 per cent pupation of *H. armigera* on chickpea (Table 5).

Table 5: Survival and mortality	y of various li	fe stages of H.	armigera on chickpea
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Met week	Period of week	Per cent mortality of egg	Per cent Survival of egg	Per cent pupation	Sex ratio	Per cent adult emergence
49	03-09 Dec	28.57	0.71	84.21	1:1.29	68.75
50	10-16 Dec	18.18	0.82	86.96	1:1.86	70
51	17-23 Dec	27.78	0.72	85.71	1.25:1	72.22
52	24-31 Dec	17.65	0.82	91.30	1:1.63	66.67
1	01-07 Jan	13.33	0.87	85	1:1.43	64.71
2	08-14 Jan	10	0.90	76.19	1:1.29	62.5
3	15-21Jan	14.29	0.86	80	1:1.4	75
4	22-28 Jan	25	0.75	-	-	-

3.1.7 Sex ratio (based on pupal morphology)

Highest sex ratio was observed in the 50th MW i.e. 1:1.86 and lowest during 49th and 2nd MW i.e.1:1.29 and overall sex ratio was 1:1.35, and are represented in Table 5. 3.1.8 Adult emergence

The per cent adult emergence was in the range of 62.5 to 75 per cent during different meteorological weeks. The maximum adult emergence i.e. 75 per cent was observed in the 3^{rd} MW and minimum i.e. 62.5 was in the 2^{nd} MW, depicted in Table 5.

The overall per cent of adult emergence of *H. armigera* is in close confirmation with the studies conducted by Bheemanna ^[1] who reported the per cent adult emergence in *Bt* cotton, Non *Bt* cotton, red gram, Bengal gram and sunflower was 6.60, 42.80, 96.5, 80.2 and 57 per cent, respectively.

3.1.9 Fecundity of *H. armigera*

Highest fecundity was observed in 1^{st} MW i.e. 438 eggs per female while lowest fecundity in 50th MW i.e. 389.67 eggs per female. The female oviposited for 5 days continuously after mating. The average fecundity observed was 389.67-438 eggs per female. The overall fecundity in *H. armigera* was 409.64 eggs per female (Table 5).

The results on fecundity of *H. armigera* finds the support in the work carried out by Ali *et al.* (2016) who recorded 299.68 to 492.28 eggs per female of *H. armigera* on different chickpea cultivars.

4. Conclusion

Egg and larval field activities of H. armigera started from December 2015 to January 2016 on chickpea with peak infestation from mid-December to fortnight of January. Among mortality factors i.e. parasitization was found to be the major mortality factors. Field collected population of younger larvae (Ist to IIIrd instars) were parasitized by two Ichneumonids i.e. Eriborus spp. and Campoletis chlorideae. Hence it is necessary to observe early larval stages and follow practices for conservation of natural parasitoids and accordingly adoption of plant protection measures should be taken on H. armigera. HaNPV was also found to be one of the biotic mortality factors for field collected younger and older group larvae. Other mortality factors during late instars and pupal stages were incomplete pupation (larva-pupal intermediate stages), pupal deformity, pupal failure to complete the development (adults not emerged) and unsuccessful adult emergence, unknown reasons also contributed mortality in almost all stages of H. armigera. Among the field collected damaging larval stages to crop, older larvae (IVth and Vth instar) showed more mortality followed by younger larvae, which is mainly due to biotic indicating precautionary insecticidal/botanical factors application to protect the natural enemies and adopt the measures to conserve the biotic fauna.

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