

Impact of Climatic Conditions on the Infestation of Major Pests of Mulberry (*Morus Spp.*) in Doon Valley

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ABSTRACT

The seasonal incidence of major mulberry pests was studied in sub-tropical climatic conditions during 2001-03 in Doon valley and found it varied from season to season. The leaf roller (*Diaphania pulverulentalis*, Hampson) and Bihar hairy caterpillar (*Spilarctia obliqua* Wlk.) have been reported as two major pests causing serious damage to mulberry plantations. *D. pulverulentalis* was predominant in the months of August, September and October. The maximum percent infestation was observed during the month of September, 2003. The infestation of *S. obliqua* was reported during the months of March, April, September, October and November. The peak period of infestation was noticed in September followed by October. Tukra caused by a mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus* Green) was also reported in the months of April, May, June and July in mulberry plantation. Maximum percentage of infestation was found during the month of June. Thrips (*Pseudodendrothrips mori* Niwa) is a polyphagous major pest of mulberry causing concern to sericulturists all over India. Thrips affects only tender leaves (newly sprouted) during the months of February and July and the maximum percentage of infestation was noticed during the month of February. Mites (*Tetranychus* spp.) were also reported during the months of July and August. *Myllocerus cyanura* was reported during the months of July, August, September and April. *M. cyanura* is well distributed in sub-tropical areas and predominant in the lower temperature zones and was reported from Sheesambara, Dehradun and Bagheswar from April to May. Infestation of termites (*Odontotermes obsesus*) was also recorded throughout the year in mulberry plantations.

Key words: Pests incidence, leaf roller, Bihar hairy caterpillar, Tukra, mites, percentage infestation, Mulberry, climatic conditions.