

INSECT PEST OF MAIZE

(i) ***Cicadulina mbila* (Maize leaf hopper)**. The most important leaf hopper of maize is *Cicadulina mbila*. The insect does not cause economically significant damage through its feeding but is economically important because it transmits the maize streak virus.

(ii) ***Busseola fusca* (Maize stalk borer)**. They attack only graminaceous crops especially maize and sorghum. The major economic effect of *B. fusca* is typical rows of concentric holes called "Windows" caused by feeding and mining activities of young caterpillars.

(iii) ***Sesamia calamistis* (Pink Stalk Borer)**. Adult moth is pale yellow with dark markings on the forewings. The boring activity of larvae into the stem of the crop weakens the stem mechanically and reduces crop yield.

(iv) ***Eldana saccharina* (Sugarcane Stalk Borer)**. They are often the most important borer species at the end of the growing season. They cause damage by boring into the cob, weakening the stem and making it prone to lodging.

(v) ***Heliothis armigera* (American Bollworm)** The insect lays round, yellow-brown eggs (100-1500 per female) singly on young buds, stalks or fruit.

(vi) ***Spodoptera* spp. (Army worms)** – army worms are the caterpillars of a number of different moths of the genus *Spodoptera*. The spp include *S. littoralis* (Egyptian cotton leaf worm), *S. exempta* (African army worm), *S. litura* (Cotton leaf worm). They occasionally act as cut worms.

(vii) ***Heteronychus* sp. (Black maize beetle)** – Adult beetles are black, roundish and 15- 20mm long. A single beetle can eat through several plants in row and can cause dead-heart effect.

(viii) ***Sitophilus zeamais* (Maize weevil)**. These are small brown to dark brown or almost black weevils with a long snout or rostrum and an elbowed antenna which ends in distinct claws. The life cycle is completed in about 5 weeks at 30°C and 70% R.H.