

INSECT PEST OF RICE

(a) Rice Stem Borers: Stem or stalk borers are found wherever rice is grown and are usually present in the greatest numbers at the end of the rainy season. The most important ones are:

- (i) *Chilo polychrysus* – Dark-headed Rice Stem Borer
- (ii) *Chilo suppressalis* – Stripped Rice Stem Borer
- (iii) *Sesamia inferens* – Purple Stalk Borer
- (iv) *Scirpophaga innotata* – White Paddy Stem Borer
- (v) *Scirpophaga incertulas* – Yellow Paddy Stem Borer

The developmental cycle of all stem borers is similar. The adult female moth lays about 200 eggs on the leaves or sheaths of the rice plant. The caterpillars hatch after 5 – 10 days and begin to feed on the leaves; they later bore into the stalk and feed on the plant.

(b) Rice hoppers: Rice hoppers devour rice and inflict great damage because they are carriers of destructive virus diseases. The most important ones are:

- (i) *Nilaparvata lugens* - Brown Rice Plant Hopper
- (ii) *Nephotettix nigropictus* – Green Rice Leaf Hopper
- (iii) *Nephotettix furcifera* – White-backed Rice Plant Hopper
- (iv) *Recilia dorsalis* – Zigzag Rice Leaf Hopper

The life cycle is completed in 3 weeks and 6 generations are possible in a year.