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Catalogue of Crop Pests of Gujarat State

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OF

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FOREWARD

Agricultural Entomology is closely associated not only with the crop production but also with the safe preservation of food grains and other household belonging of the farmers and public at large. Until the formation of the state of Gujarat in May, 1960, much attention was not devoted to the study of various pests of this region of the then Bombay Province. Nevertheless it has now been realised that the first essential necessity is to determine the identity of the insect pests responsible for damaging the crops grown in the state. Accondingly the authors started collecting the pests of different crops and got the species determined. The information thus obtained has resulted in the catalogue of pests.

The authors efforts in compiling a complete list of pest species whose identity has been confirmed by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London, is commendable. The list can by no means said to be complete, but it is up-to-date as far as the species of the pests are concerned. It will serve as a handy reference for Research Workers, Bistrict Agriculture Officers, Farmers and also the students in Agriculture Colleges.

It is hoped that the catalogue with all its inevitable defects should serve as a basic reference for pests of crops grown in the state and may help those who are interested in the subject.

Gunvant Patel, Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Krishi Bhavan, Paldi, Ahmedabad ?

CATALOGUE OF CROP PESTS OF GUJARAT STATE

INTRODUCTION:

Never before has agricultural Entomology had to play such a great role in India as it had to do in the present decade, when our country is in short supply of food both for man and animals. This is more true for our state which is always deficient in food grains. The problems of pests has become more acute with the introduction of hybrid varieties of certain food crops at the same time with intensive and extensive crop production due to increased irrigation facilities. At least 10 per cent of food grains produced is destroyed by the ravages of insect pests both in the fields and under storage. Major proportion of such losses can be prevented if the cultivators, District Agricultural Officers, Entomological Research Workers and students of Agricultre have a working knowledge of the crop pests and practical methods of controlling them. The first essential in this context is to have a complete list of pests attacking respective crops grown in the state. Such list was prepared for the state of the then Bombay Progince by Trehan and Pingale 1946, and Vevai and Talgeri 1949, but it was by no means complete especially for theis region of the Province which is now the region of the Gujarat state. A more perfect list was published by Patel et al. in 1950 as an appendix to the book "Crop Pests and How to Fight Them" published by the then Government of Bombay. Thus it is quite evident that such a list does not exist for the state of Gujarat. The necessity of having such a list was fest by many but merely compiling a list from the published literature will be of no value for the state .

accordingly the authors toop up the work by collecting, rearing and getting the species identified by the experts since 1963 to make the list as complete, comprehensive and authentic as possible. The information thus collected provided the matter for this catalogue.

The catalogue is prepared with the idea of providing as complete and comprehensive information about the insect pests that are found damaging various crops in the state. This would serve as a handy and up-to-date reference list for all those interested in the Agricultural Entomology and more so to the Research workers, District Agriculture Officers, Advanced Cultivators and above all the Students in Agriculture Celleges. Its value has been enhanced especially because the specimens mentioned in this catalogue are all identified by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London. For convenience in use, the arrangement of pests as well as crops is done alphabetically.

Another list of insect pests according to their natural erders and families arranged alphabetically, mentioning their host plants with cross-references in the main list has also been given for ease in searching.

Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat for help and permission in publishing the catalogue as a technical bulletin of the Department of Agriculture to Dr.M.D.Patel, Director, Institute of Agriculture, Ananad and Dr.H.M.Patel, Principal, B.A.College of Agriculture, Ananad for providing necessary facilities during the work, we are indebted to the Director, Commonwealth Institute of Entenelogy, London

for the proper identification of the insect pests. We are also thankful to Mr. F.B.Saiyad for help in the rearing, pinning and preserving insects without him this would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to the staff members of the department for help as and when needed.

CONTENTS

			•	Page No.
FOREWARD		• • •		
Introduction		040	0.00	
CATALOGUE OF CROP GUJARAT STATE = P		ř		
A: CERBALS	•	• • •	000	
	BAJRI	0 • e	0 0 0	
	JOWAR	0	0 8 9	
	Maias	0 0 0	a o e	
	PADDY	5 A B	• • •	
	UHEAT			
	Bavto		000	
	Banti		048	
	RAJAGIR	A	•••	
B: SUGAR C	ROPS	0 0 0	• • •	
	SU GARCA	ME	000	
	SUGARBE	ET.	0 6 6	
C: PULSES		o • •	g • o	
	CHO LA	5 • 6	0 6 6	
	GRAM		p • •	
	GRBEN G	ram.		
		· • · • •	•	
	KULTHI	: • • •	• • •	
	MACH	•••	•••	
	PEAS	400	•••	
	SO YABIA	;		
	TUR	000	•••	

Page No.

		UDID	000		
		WAL			
D:	FO DDER	CROPS	, 		
·	·	IU SRNE	0 0 0		• • •
E:	VECETA	BLES	• • •		
	•	BHENDI			• • •
		BRINJAL			000
		fenogre	ek		
		MNI			000
		PO TATO	<u>\$.</u>		: • • •
		SWEET P	OTATO.		400
		Tandulj	A		9 0 0 •
F	CRUCIF	Brous Ve	CETABLE	62	• • •
		CABBAGE	•	į	-
		CAULI FL	OWER	į	
		Mustard	•		
		Radi sh		Ž.	
		KNOL - 1	KHO L	9	
		TURNIP			
Gs	CUÇURE	its	• 0 0	*	000
		PUMPKIN	3	Á	
	•	CUCUMBER	lS		
		COURDS			

Hs	oi isei	D CROPS	•••	•••
		CASTOR	400	• • •
		GROUND NUT	• • •	•••
		Saffiower	•••	• • •
		sesamum -	• •	•••
Is	fi bre	CROPS		
		Cotton	•••	
		Sann Hemp	0	•••
J;	Nabco i	ics		
		CHI CORY	6 • •	***
		TO BACCO		•••
Ks	FRUIT	CROPS	•••	•••
		AMIA		
		BANANA		000
		BER		•••
		chi ku	000	
		Falsa		
		FIG	0 0 0	
		GRAPE VIN	Š	
		GUAVA	• • •	0 4 8
		JAMBU	• • •	
		Cîtaus	• • •	
		Mango	•••	• • •
		MULBERRY	• • •	•••
		POMEGRANA	re	•••
		co co nu t	•••	• • •

l,	SHADE TREES				
		Cassia		Ĭ	
		CORK TREE	.	Î	
		COLD NOHO	R		
		PELTOP HO	RUM	7	
		RAIN TREE	Ē.		
M:	GARDEN PLANT	!s			000
	•	ASTER			000
		ALLYSUM	0 • 0		
		BALSAM	•••		
		CAGIUS	000		
		CANDY T	JFT		
		COCK'S C	OMB		
		DAHLIAS			
		GALLARDI.	د ه م ه		
		heli chrys	JUM		
		IXORA			
		Jasundī	000		000
		LILLY	000		0 0 0
		MADHUMALI	Į		000
		OLEANDER			
		ornamenta	L PO	ægranat	E
	,	ROSE	000		000
		STOCK	000		000
		ZI NNI 4			000
Ns l	MEDICINAL PLA	ints	000		000
		DAMRO	000		
		Miletold			

		4-2	
		(5)	
		SERPAGANDHA	000
		SOAP - NUT	• • •
		Tulsi	•••
0;	SPICES and	condiments	•••
	•	CHILLIES	• • •
		CUMIN	
		FENNEL	
		GINGER	000
		MITHI - LIMDI	
		onion	•••
		TURMERIC	•••
P:	WEEDS	000	
		AKADO	,
		ARDUSO	•••
		ARO = TARO	000
		BAVCHI	
		BHANGADO	000
		BHOI - PATHARI	000
		BODIO KALHAR.	,
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		DHARO	
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		KANAJARO	• • •
		KANTA - SERIA	• • •
		KHAKHARO	

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R:	STORED GRAIN		•••	p· o
	PESTS ARRANG	ed accordi	ng to the	NATURAL
•	ORDERS AND F	ami lies ai	TH THEIR	FOOD
	PLANTS	• • •		Part - II
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		co leopter	14	a • •
		DIPTERA		0 p a
		HEMIPTERA	000	000
		HYMENOP EE	RA	000
		I SOP TERA	000	a o o
		LEPI DOPTE	RA	000
		CRTHOPTER	A	0 \$ 0
		THYSANOPT	SRA.	Q q p
S	Non-insect pe	sis		in the second se
		CRABS	60 a	400
		RATS	000	•
	PESTS ARRANGE	D ALPHABET	rically gi	VING CROSS
	reference of	CROP NUMBE	er with pe	ST HUMBER

PESTS ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY GIVING CROSS
REFERENCE OF CROP NUMBER WITH PEST HUMBER
IN PART - I.

REFERENCES: