

Impact of weather parameters on abundance of major defoliators of soybean

■ M.V. MATTI* AND R.O. DEOTALE

Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, NAGPUR (M.S.) INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Studies were undertaken on seasonal incidence and relationship of weather parameters on major defoliators of soybean during *Kharif* 2014-15 at the College of Agriculture, Nagpur. Incidence of *Spodoptera litura* began during 35th standard week (0.20 ± 0.12) gradually attained maximum (1.80 ± 0.11) during 41st standard week. Multiple regression analysis revealed that decrease in 1 per cent of morning relative and evening relative humidity would lead to increase of 0.019 and 0.014 mean number of *Spodoptera* larvae per meter row length. Incidence of *Thysanoplusia orchalsia* began during 35th standard week (0.20 ± 0.15) gradually attained maximum (1.00 ± 0.12) during 42nd standard week. Population was decreased from 43rd standard week onwards, Regression analysis revealed that decrease in 1 per cent of morning relative humidity would lead to increase of 0.010 mean number of larvae per meter row length, decrease in 1^oC of morning relative humidity would lead to increase of 2.264 per cent foliage damage.

*Corresponding author:

Email : muttumatti@gmail.com

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