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Studies on varietal screening and date of sowing of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hub.) on chickpea [*Cicer arietinum* (L.)]

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ABSTRACT : Investigations on screening of chickpea varieties/genotypes, dates of sowing of *H. armigera* (Hub.) on chickpea were conducted at Experimental Farm, College of Agriculture during *Rabi* season in 2005-06. Ten varieties/genotypes of chickpea were tested for relative incidence of the pest. Among these varieties RSG-44 and RSG-945 were found to be highly susceptible followed by CSJ-104, RSG-959, RSG-895, RSG-888, RSG-897 and RSG-973 as moderately susceptible while, CSJD-884 and RSG-931 as least susceptible. The maximum yield was obtained in CSJD-884 (14.54 q ha⁻¹) at par with RSG-931 (14.36 q ha⁻¹), while lowest yield was from RSG-44 (11.13 q ha⁻¹). The experiment on dates of sowing revealed that early sown crop (5th October) had the lowest larval population (2.50 larvae/five plants) of gram pod borer, minimum pod damage (14.50%) with relatively better yield (13.04 q ha⁻¹) as compared to late sown (20th November) crop with higher larval population (6.13 larvae/five plants), higher pod damage (28.96%) and lower yield (9.77 q ha⁻¹).

Key Words : Date of sowing, Varietal screening, Gram pod borer, Larval population, Yield

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