



## Ash weevil *Mylocerus* spp. dominates *Helicoverpa armigera* in Kharif groundnut systems

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**Abstract :** Redgram, castor, cowpea and field bean were grown as intercrops to study the population dynamics of *Helicoverpa* and *Mylocerus* spp in groundnut under rainfed conditions. Groundnut + redgram, groundnut + castor, groundnut + cowpea and groundnut + field bean were raised at 7:1, 7:1, 6:1 and 6:1 ratios, respectively along with pure crop of groundnut. Groundnut + cowpea and groundnut + redgram intercropping systems recorded less mean per cent damaged leaves by *Helicoverpa* (4.06 and 4.69%). The damage was found to be increased gradually and reached maximum of 7.80 mean per cent at 60 DAS *i.e.* during I<sup>st</sup> FN of September, thereafter slightly declined. However, the leaf damage by *Helicoverpa* has not reached ETL (20% damaged leaves) in the season. Leaf damage by ash weevil was started at 20 DAS *i.e.* during II<sup>nd</sup> FN of July which was gradually increased and reached peak (24.19 %) at 60 DAS *i.e.* during I FN of September and thereafter it was declined. Per cent leaf damage by *Mylocerus* spp. was comparatively less in groundnut + cowpea system (12.48 %). Whereas damage in remaining treatments ranged from 15.0 to 22.0 per cent. However, irrespective of intercrops, on groundnut, Ash weevil damage was higher than other leaf eaters including *Helicoverpa*.

**Key Words :** Groundnut, *Mylocerus* spp., *Helicoverpa armigera*, Intercropping

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