

Research Paper :

Correlation between morphological characters of sorghum genotypes with aphid and shoot bug incidence



N.M. CHIKKARUGI AND R.A. BALIKAI

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See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

R.A. BALIKAI

Department of
Agricultural
Engomology, College
of Agriculture,
University of
Agricultural Sciences,
DHARWAD
(KARNATAKA)
INDIA
rabalikai@gmail.com

SUMMARY

For resistance against aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari* Zehntner) and shoot bug (*Peregrinus maidis* Ashmead), one hundred and thirty one genotypes of *Rabi* sorghum were studied at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Bijapur, Karnataka, India during *Rabi* 2006-07. Morphological characters viz., plant height, distance between two leaves and leaf angle were correlated non-significantly and positively with aphid density. Number of leaves was negatively and significantly associated with aphid incidence, whereas, leaf area correlated significantly and positively. A significant and positive correlation for plant height and leaf area, a significant and negative correlation for number of leaves per plant and non-significant positive correlation for distance between two leaves and leaf angle with shoot bug damage was observed.

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Aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari* Zehntner) and shoot bug (*Peregrinus maidis* Ashmead) are serious pests of *Rabi* sorghum in Northern Karnataka, India. Most of the released hybrids and high yielding varieties are highly susceptible to these pests. Sorghum aphid is becoming economically important in recent years in many sorghum growing areas leading to losses in grain and fodder yield. The shoot bug is a major hurdle in *Rabi* sorghum production by causing dual problem of direct loss by sucking the sap and indirect damage by transmitting sorghum stripe disease. Hence, it comes in the way of harvesting potential yield of grain and fodder. The characteristics of the plants that make them "resistant" for given phytophagous insects are not always clear. It may incorporate many attributes of the plants from the microscopic to the macroscopic, e.g., its community, its phonological characteristics, its physiological state and its physical and chemical properties. All these properties of the plants are known to have influence upon the phytophages (Ananthakrishnan, 1992). Morphological and

biochemical factors for insect resistance in plants usually overlap each other. The morphological factors have been studied in one hundred and thirty one genotypes of *Rabi* sorghum to identify the cause of resistance against the aphid and shoot bug.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out during *Rabi* 2006-07 at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Bijapur, Karnataka, India. The experiments were conducted in a randomized block design with three replications in a plot size of 1.2 x 4.0 m (2 lines of 4 m length) during *Rabi* season. From each entry, in each replication, five plants were selected randomly and observations on plant height (cm), distance between two leaves (cm), number of leaves per plant and leaf angle (degrees) and leaf area (length x breadth x 0.7) were recorded at milky stage of the crop. These morphological characters were correlated with aphid density and percentage of plant damage due to shoot bug. The aphid population density was recorded on all the five randomly selected

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