

## Studies on succession of insect pest complex and their natural enemies in pigeonpea [*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.]

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### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at experimental field of Department of Entomology, Live Stock Farm, Adhartal, J.N. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.) during *Kharif* season 2009-2010. Thirteen different species of insects and one insectivorous bird species were recorded on the pigeonpea at Jabalpur during 2009-2010. Data collected revealed that fauna belonging to seven orders and fourteen families were associated with the pigeonpea crop. The first group of insects included jassid, leaf webber, tussock caterpillar and red pumpkin beetle which appeared when the crop age was about 39 days old *i.e.* during vegetative stage and remained available upto the reproductive stage. The next group of insects to appear on the crop were jassid, thrips, blister beetle, pod bug, gram pod borer, pod fly, green stink bug and red gram plume moth. These appeared when the crop age was about 102 days old *i.e.* at the reproductive stage and remained available upto the maturity of the crop. These pests were the major key pests which caused colossal yield losses. The natural enemies observed were lady bird beetle and a parasitic wasp *Cotessia*(= *Apanteles*)sp. which remained active from vegetative to reproductive stage of the crop. An insectivorous bird, black drongo was also observed to feed on different stages of insect pests infesting pigeonpea during the entire crop growth period.

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