

A Field Survey of Sucking Tea Pests and Their Control Measures in a Few Tea Gardens of Terai Region, West Bengal, India

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Abstract: A field survey had been carried out from September 2013 to November 2015 in few tea gardens of Terai region, West Bengal. It was found that the sucking pest Tea Mosquito Bag attack was highest in Terai region nearly about 35% of total pest occurrence. The other sucking pest attack was Red Spider Mite attack near about 20%, Tea Jassid 12%, Aphids 10%, Thrips 7% of total pest occurrence. The tea gardens of that region uses Tea Research Association (TRA) recommended and Tea Board approved pesticides to control them.

Keywords: Tea garden, sucking pest, pest control

1. Introduction

Terai region has a good agro climatic condition for tea plantation and large numbers of tea gardens are present in that region. The tea growing environment also include a huge number of sucking tea pests. It causes huge crop loss and deteriorated the quality of tea. In Terai region mostly Tea Mosquito Bag (*Helopeltis thevora*), Tea Thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*), Tea Jassid (*Empoasca flavescens*), and Aphids

(*Toxoptera aurantii*) are observed. Red spider mite (*Oligonychus coffeae*) also suck the sap of mature tea leaves although it has other activities. To control these sucking tea pests wide varieties of pesticides are used in different tea gardens as per recommendations of Tea Research Association (TRA). Sucking tea pests are controlled in three different ways as chemical control, biological control and cultural control (Borthakur and Singh, 2002).

Table 1: Sucking tea pests (Kabir and Das, 2015)

Name of the sucking tea pest	Damaging stage	Seasonal incidence	Site of attack	Damage symptoms
Tea Mosquito Bag (<i>Helopeltis thevora</i>)	Nymphs and Adults	February-November	Young leaves, buds and tender stems	Initially, a ring like spot formed at the sap-sucking point turning translucent light brown within 24 hours and later it turns dark brown in color and appear as a sunken spots and dry up.
Tea Thrips (<i>Scirtothrips dorsalis</i>)	Nymphs and Adults	March-April	Unopened or partly opened buds and young succulent leaves	Leaf surface becomes uneven, curly, matty, showing parallel lines of feeding marks on either side of midrib and 2-4 sand papery lines on either side of the midrib.
Tea Jassid (<i>Empoasca flavescens</i>)	Nymphs and Adults	May-July	Young leaves and tender stems	The affected leaves become uneven and the leaves curl downwards. The margin become recurved and subsequently turns brown and dry up. The midrib and veins of the affected leaves may show brownish discolouration.
Aphids (<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>)	Nymphs and Adults	January-April	Buds, young leaves and tender stems	Crinkled and curled leaves bellow tipping level.
Red Spider Mite (<i>Oligonychus coffeae</i>)	Nymphs and Adults	Almost throughout the year	Mature tea leaves	Normally attacks the upper surface of the mature leaves in case of severe attack it spreads to the undersurface and young leaves also. Reddish spots developed on the sucking sites which later on unite to form large brown patches. The leaves turns ruddy bronze, marking the fields distinct even from a distance. In case of severe attack leaves may dry up and fall off.

2. Materials and Methods

1. Study Area: The field study was conducted in tea gardens of Terai regions West Bengal, India. Field surveys were conducted in different tea gardens of the study area. The field surveyed tea gardens are Matigara tea estate, Dagapur tea estate, Sukna tea estate, Mohurgong and Gulma Tea Estate, New Chamta Tea Estate, Simulbari Tea Estate,

Marionbarrie Tea Estate, Kamalpur Tea Estate, Tiriannah Tea Estate and Hansqua Tea Estate.

2. Data Collection: The presented data were collected during field survey of mentioned tea estates during September 2013 to November 2015. During the field survey different sections of mentioned tea gardens were studied and data collected from the office of the gardens.

3. Result and Discussion

During the field study, it was observed that the tea gardens of Terai region mostly affected by Tea Mosquito Bag attack

near about 35% of total pest occurrence. Red Spider Mite attack near about 20% , Tea Jassid 12%, Aphids 10%, Thrips 7% respectively of total pest occurrence.

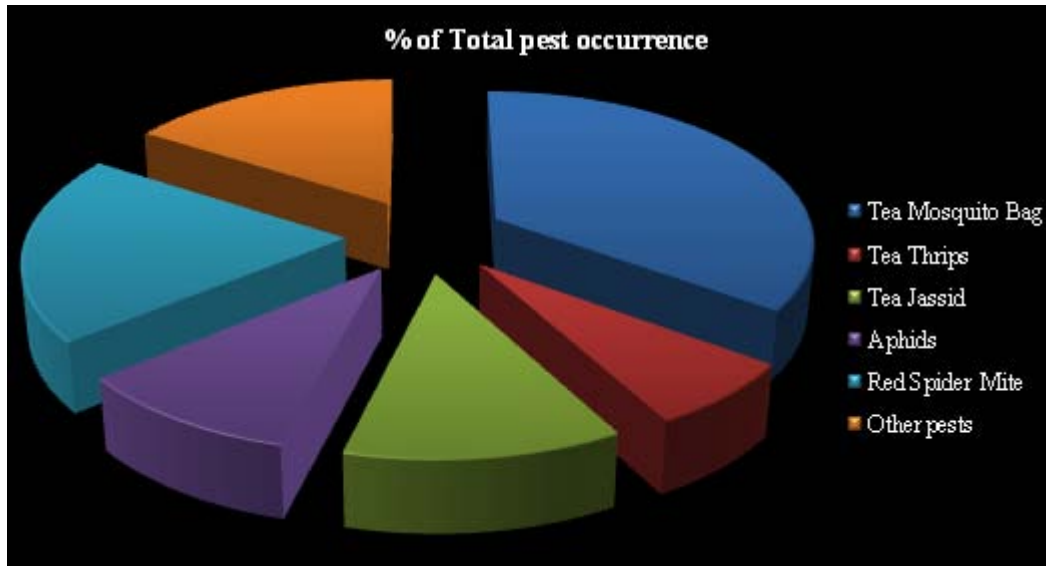


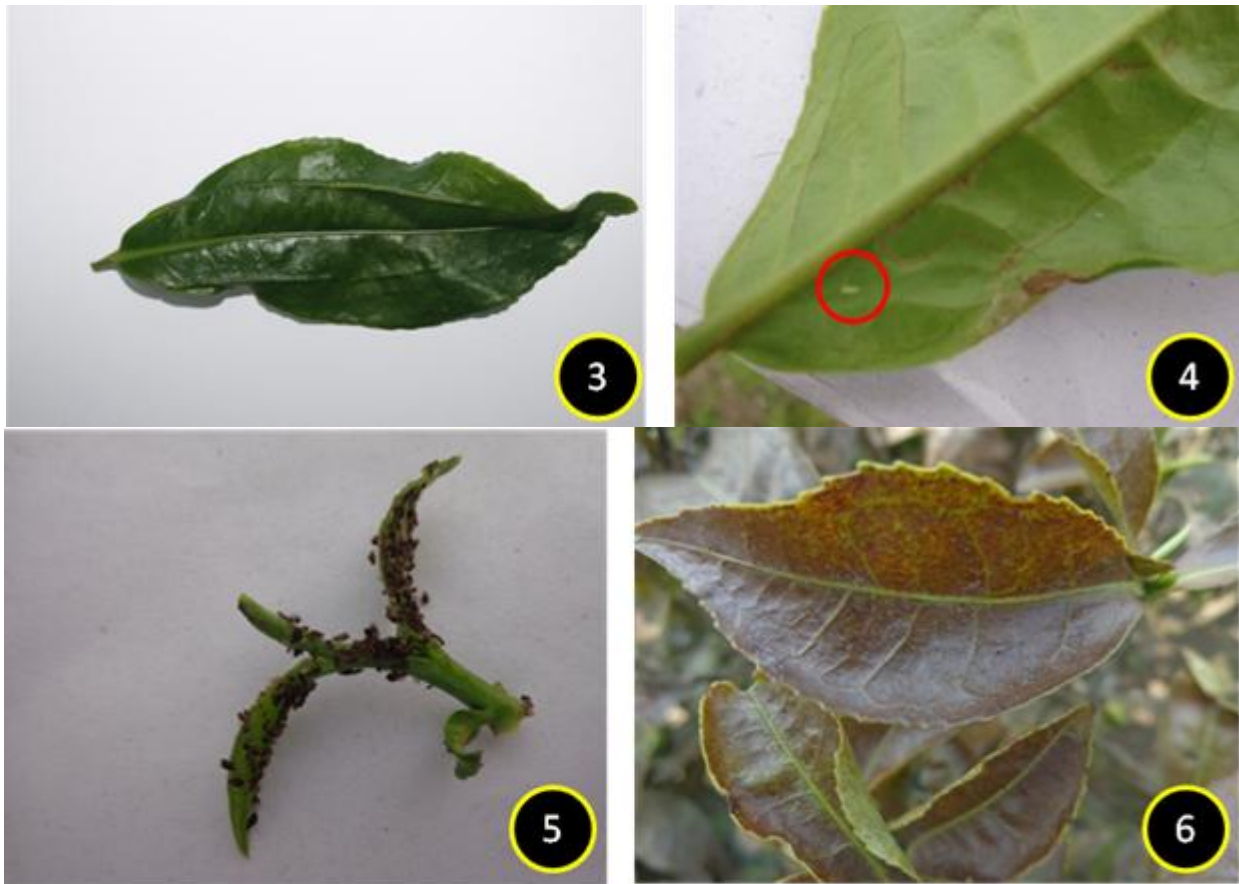
Figure: Percentages of sucking pest attack of total pest occurrence

To control the attack of sucking pests, the tea gardens uses Tea Research Association (TRA) recommended specific

pesticides in specific dose. The pesticides are also approved in the Plant Protection Code approved by Tea Board:

Name of the sucking tea pest	Pesticide used	Dose
Tea Mosquito Bag	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	50g/200l water/acre
	Thiacloprid 21.7%SC	150ml/200l water/acre
Tea Thrips	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	50g/200l water/acre
	Thiacloprid 21.7%SC	150ml/200l water/acre
Tea Jassid	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	50g/200l water/acre
	Thiacloprid 21.7%SC	150ml/200l water/acre
Aphids	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	50g/200l water/acre
	Thiacloprid 21.7%SC	150ml/200l water/acre
Red Spider Mite	Hexythiazox 5.45%EC	160 ml/200l water/acre
	Fenpyroximate 5% EC	200ml/200l water/acre
	Propargite 57% EC	300ml/200l water/acre
	Fenazaquin 10% EC	400ml/200l water/acre





1. Tea Mosquito Bag (*Helopeltis thevora*), 2. Tea Mosquito Bag affected leaf, 3. Tea Thrips affected leaf, 4. Tea Jassid (*Empoasca flavescens*), 5. Aphids (*Toxoptera aurantii*), 6. Red spider mites (*Oligonychus coffeae*).

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