Influence of weather factors on incidence of fruit borer complex (Earias vittella Fabricius and Helicoverpa armigera Hub.) on okra

Umesh Das, J Ghosh and N Chaudhuri

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Abstract
An experiment was conducted to study the seasonal incidence of fruit borer infesting okra (cultivar – Bhendi No.10) during post-kharif (2015 & 2016) and pre-kharif (2016 & 2017) season at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, West Bengal, India. The result revealed that the activity of fruit borer was found more during pre-kharif season in comparison to post-kharif season. The peak incidence of fruit borer (28.43%/plant) was observed in 45SW during post-kharif season and (33.22%/plant) in 20SW during pre-kharif season. Weather play an important role in incidence of fruit borer in both post-kharif and pre-kharif seasons under study. During post-kharif season, fruit borer (bored fruit %) had significantly negative correlation with maximum and minimum temperature of all weeks. During pre-kharif season the maximum temperature of current week, minimum temperature of all the weeks, evening RH of current week, 1-lag week had positively significant influence on fruit borer incidence.

Keywords: Fruit borer, Earias vittella Fab., weather parameter, Helicoverpa armigera Hub

Introduction
Vegetables are an indispensable part of our diet supplying vitamins, carbohydrates and minerals needed for a balanced diet. Their value is important especially in developing countries like India, where malnutrition abounds (Randhawa, 1974) [17]. Amongst the various vegetables grown, okra Abelmoschus esculentus L. (Moench) is an economically important vegetable crop grown in tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world. This crop is also suitable for cultivation as a kitchen garden crop as well as on large high-tech commercial farms beside usual cultivation. In India, major okra producing states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam (Anon., 2004) [3]. West Bengal is the leading state in okra sharing 18.4% of the total national production of okra production. In West Bengal, okra occupies an area of 77.40 thousand hectares with production of 9.13 thousand MT during 2016-17 (Anon., 2017) [10]. Hoogly and Burdwan districts are the major growing belts. Okra crop is ravaged by as many as 45 species of insect-pests throughout its growth period. Among these, cotton jassid, Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula biguttula (Ishida) and shoot and fruit borers, Earias vittella (Fabricius), E. insulana (Fabricius), Amrasca biguttula bigu...
interval starting from initiation of pests to maturity. Five plants were randomly selected from each plot for each observation and percent of bored fruit was calculated by the following formula:

\[ \% \text{ damage: } P = \frac{\text{No. of damaged fruits}}{\text{No. of healthy fruit} + \text{No. of damaged fruits}} \times 100 \]

**Statistical analysis:** Correlation analysis was done by in statistical software SAS (Version 9.2) with transformed values whichever applicable for interpretation of data.

**Result and Discussion**

**Post-kharif season (2015 and 2016)**

Fluctuation of fruit borer complex infestation during post-kharif: With the initiation of fruit setting, the infestation of fruit borer was noticed. The average fruit damage was recorded 11.10%, 12.25% and 11.68% in 2015, 2016 and pooled mean respectively during post-kharif season (Fig. 1). The infestation was initiated on 42\(^{th}\) SW in 2015 (6.56%/plant), in 2016 (4.24%/plant) and pooled mean of two years study with 5.41% damaged fruit. The highest per cent of damage was found on 45\(^{th}\) SW in all cases causing 24.42% damage in 2015, 32.45% during 2016 and 28.43% damage in pooled mean of both the years. Thereafter the level of damage declined gradually and reached 9.67%, 10.01% and 9.84% respectively on 50\(^{th}\) SW in both the years and pooled mean at the end of the crop growing period respectively.

Correlation study showed that during post-kharif season, the minimum and maximum temperature had negatively significant effect on fruit borer population in all weeks. Evening RH of 2-lag week had significant negative effect on fruit borer infestation during 2015 (Table 1). The maximum and minimum temperature of all the week were found to have significant negative relation with fruit borer population during 2016. The pooled mean data also revealed that maximum and minimum temperature of all the weeks had shown negatively significant influence on fruit borer infestation.

**Pre-kharif season (2016 and 2017)**

Fluctuation of fruit borer complex infestation during pre-kharif season: It was observed that the higher per cent of fruit damage due to fruit borer was recorded in 2017 (12.95%) as compared to 2016 (11.71%). The pooled data of both years revealed that 12.33% of fruits were damaged by borer (Fig. 2). Initiation of fruit borer infestation was recorded on 14\(^{th}\) SW in both years with the level of 6.00% and 8.39% in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The pooled mean data showed 7.20% damage at initial harvest on 14\(^{th}\) SW. The highest percent of damage was recorded on 20\(^{th}\) SW (43.07%) in 2016, 18\(^{th}\) SW (26.25%) in 2017 and the pooled mean it was 33.22% on 20\(^{th}\) SW. Thereafter the damage level declined and reached 2.15%, 9.48% and 5.82% respectively on 50\(^{th}\) SW in both the years and pooled mean at the end of the crop growing period respectively.

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**Table 1:** Correlation between fruit borer complex (% bored fruit) and the environmental factors during post-kharif season

| Year     | Week  | Temperature °C | Relative humidity % | Total rainfall (mm) |
|----------|-------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|          |       | Maximum        | Minimum             | Morning             | Evening             |                   |
| 2015     | Current | -0.608*       | -0.808****           | 0.322               | -0.178              | -0.449            |
|          | 1-lag  | -0.715*       | -0.778****           | 0.250               | -0.459              | -0.468            |
|          | 2-lag  | -0.624*       | -0.775****           | -0.149              | -0.622*             | -0.456            |
| 2016     | Current | -0.830****     | -0.804****           | 0.372               | 0.090               | 0.253             |
|          | 1-lag  | -0.918****     | -0.914****           | 0.336               | 0.121               | 0.174             |
|          | 2-lag  | -0.899****     | -0.899****           | 0.299               | 0.284               | 0.076             |
| Pooled Mean | Current | -0.825****     | -0.906****           | 0.435               | -0.112              | -0.440            |
|          | 1-lag  | -0.883****     | -0.878****           | 0.373               | -0.295              | -0.460            |
|          | 2-lag  | -0.807****     | -0.847****           | 0.099               | -0.294              | -0.443            |

*Significant at 0.05%, ** Significant at 0.01%, *** Significant at 0.005%, **** Significant at 0.001%
The correlation analysis during pre-kharif showed that morning RH of current week and total rainfall of current and 1-lag week had positive significant effect on fruit borer infestation during 2016 (Table 2). During 2017, maximum and minimum temperature, evening RH and total rainfall of all week were found to have significant positive relation. The pooled mean data revealed that maximum temperature of current week, minimum temperature of all the week, evening RH of current week, 1-lag week and total rainfall of 2-lag week had positively significant influence on fruit borer damage.

**Table 2: Correlation between fruit borer complex (bored fruit %) population and the environmental factors during pre-kharif season**

| Year | Week | Temperature °C | Relative humidity % | Total rainfall (mm) |
|------|------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|      |      | Maximum | Minimum | Morning | Evening |                      |                      |
| 2016 | Current | 0.176 | 0.289 | 0.492* | 0.312 | 0.498* |
|      | 1-lag | 0.107 | 0.340 | 0.456 | 0.328 | 0.570* |
|      | 2-lag | 0.240 | 0.263 | 0.243 | 0.113 | 0.344 |
| 2017 | Current | 0.655*** | 0.790**** | 0.023 | 0.683*** | 0.510* |
|      | 1-lag | 0.758**** | 0.769***** | -0.190 | 0.592* | 0.477* |
|      | 2-lag | 0.636* | 0.796***** | -0.403 | 0.670*** | 0.604** |
| Pooled Mean | Current | 0.493* | 0.586* | 0.411 | 0.545* | 0.462 |
|      | 1-lag | 0.442 | 0.634** | 0.342 | 0.564* | 0.382 |
|      | 2-lag | 0.419 | 0.573* | 0.062 | 0.454 | 0.543* |

*Significant at 0.05%, ** Significant at 0.01%, *** Significant at 0.005%, **** Significant at 0.001%

**Discussion**

In present study revealed that there was no incidence of fruit borer at early crop growth stage. The fruit borer infestation was started from 42nd SW (3rd week of October) showing 5.41% damage in post-kharif which was about 5 weeks after sowing and from 14th SW (1st week of April) causing 7.20% damage in pre-kharif. The maximum percentage of fruit borer damage (bored fruit %) was recorded in pre-kharif (12.33%) as compare to post-kharif (11.68%). These observations are more or less similar with the observations recorded by Acharya (2002) [1] and Dangi (2004) [7] who reported the incidence of okra shoot and fruit borer was commenced from 6th week after sowing. No incidence of shoot and fruit borer was observed by Pal et al. (2013) [15] at early growth stages of the crop, however, the population was observed from 14th standard week i.e. 2nd week of April that confirms our present findings.

The correlation study showed that minimum and maximum temperature of all week had significant negative influence on fruit borer (bored fruit %) during post-kharif season. The results of this present study are partially supported by the findings of Chauhan (2014) [6] who observed fruit damage by Earias spp and minimum temperature had significantly negatively correlation. Mandal et al. (2006a) [11] reported that maximum temperature had negative effect on larval population buildup at Samastipur, Bihar. During pre-kharif season the minimum temperature of all weeks, maximum temperature of current week, evening RH of current and 1-lag week had significant positive correlation with bored fruit % while total rainfall of 2-lag week also showed significant positive effect. This result during pre-kharif season is partially confirmed by Selvaraj et al. (2010) [19] who also noticed significant positive correlation between E. viella population and maximum temperature. In the same way Mohanasundaram and Sharma (2011b) [12] and Aziz et al. (2011) [4] also confirm our observations by reporting significant positive effect of minimum temperature on the fruit damage.

**Conclusion**

It was found that fruit borer was found more during pre-kharif season as compared to post-kharif season in present study. The peak incidence of fruit borer complex (28.43%/plant) was observed in 45 SW during post-kharif season. Correlation between the incidences of different insect pests with abiotic factors revealed that fruit borer (bored fruit %) had significantly negative correlation with maximum and minimum temperature of all weeks.

During pre-kharif season, the peak incidence of fruit borer (33.22%/plant) was observed in 20SW. Correlation study revealed that the maximum temperature of current week, minimum temperature of all the week, evening RH of current week, 1-lag week and total rainfall of 2-lag week had positively significant influence on fruit borer damage.
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