

## A Note on Nature and Extent of Damage in Mungbean due to the Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri* Scopoli)

Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wikzek) is known to suffer from many pests and diseases (Grewal, 1988). During the Kharif season of 1986, 1987 and 1988, Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri* Scopoli) were observed to feed on the pods of "Pusa baisaki" cultivar of mungbean at Agricultural Research Station, Gulbarga. This promoted us to make a detailed study.

A number of birds are known to eat away the grains of various crops, fruit and vegetables in the field (Read *et al.*, 1989). Read *et al.* (1989) mentioned parakeets causing substantial damage to pods of pigeonpea and chickpea.

During the present study, the parakeets in flocks were observed to attack the greengram crop during the cooler hours of the day (morning and evening) and damage green mature pods. They picked the seeds from the pods. The parakeets cut the pods by making notches at regular intervals along the dorsal length of the pods and removed the seeds. When such characteristically damaged pods were opened, they contained only the seed coats as the birds had eaten the cotyledons.

To know the extent of damage made by these avian pests, five random rows of 5m length were selected along with a undamaged rows of mungbean, for comparison. Damaged plants and pods were counted and loss in grain yield was worked out (Table 1). It is evident from the table that parrots damaged 59.45 to 89.28 percent of plants with an average of 73.52. The damage to the pods was 37.58 to 57.59 (mean 46.31) percent. The average number of grains eaten per pod was 11.28 (8.9 to 12.50). The loss in grain yield was 44.44 to 62.22 (mean 55.99) per cent.

Thus, the present observations gave an indication that the parakeets can be a potent pest of mungbean occasionally. Earlier, the parrots were reported to attack and feed on grains of maize, jowar, bajra, wheat, barley and fruits like guava, fig and mango (Read *et al.*, 1989). The menace to mungbeans and extent of damage inflicate stands as a first report.

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Table 1. Parrots' damage to green pods and loss in the yield of mungbean

Random *row No.	Percent plants attacked	Percent pods damaged	Percent loss in grain yield (g)
16	68.75	44.23	55.55
12	72.00	44.14	44.44
23	89.28	57.59	57.77
14	59.45	37.58	60.00
25	78.12	48.03	62.22
Mean	73.52	46.31	55.99

\* Row length = 5 mtr.

#### References

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