

planting the yield was significantly higher. It is concluded from the above results that planting cabbage in the first week of October in Raichur would ensure the least damage by the diamondback moth and produced the highest yield. Planting at this time may possibly reduce the number of insecticidal sprays for the management of this pest.

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A Note on the Heavy Incidence of Seed Weevil, *Aplon amplum* (Faust) (Apionidae : Coleoptera) on Blackgram, *Vigna mungo* (L.) in Dharwad, Karnataka

The weevil, *Aplon amplum* (Faust) had been reported damaging the leaves of greengram, blackgram and cashew as back as 1940 (Ramakrishna Ayyar, 1940). Subsequently, its occurrence has been reported by other workers (Srivastava, 1964; Sinha *et al.*, 1985) on greengram. So far *A. amplum* is considered to be a minor pest of blackgram. Heavy infestation of blackgram (Variety K-3) pods by the grubs was noticed at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Campus during July and August, 1987. The grubs

were 5 mm long, white in colour, much wrinkled and fleshy. The grubs were usually found between the seeds inside the pods. The pods were free from excrements. In each pod, 1-4 grubs were noticed and each grub devoured two seeds. The pod damage varied from 21-49 per cent. The full grown grub pupated inside the pods in a thin silken cocoon. The adults emerged from the pods by cutting a circular hole. Large number of adults were seen resting and feeding on the lower surface of the leaves after emergence.

The adults are black, 2–4 mm long with a distinct snout. The feeding by the adults caused shot-hole damage to the leaves. Numerous minute holes could be seen on severely damaged leaves which later dried up.

Because of its severity, it has become a threat to the blackgram cultivation and has warranted the development of a suitable and economic spray schedule to combat the pest. Further studies on its distribution, loss estimation and control is in progress and the results are awaited.

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Survey of The Spider Mite Species And Their Natural Enemies on Cotton in Tungabhadra Project Area

The red spider mite, *Tetranychus* spp. are considered to be serious pests of cotton. Atleast 25 species of spider mites in six genera have been reported on cotton. The Caramine spider mite, *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* (Boisd) is assuming a major pest status during October–November in recent years in Karnataka (Patil, 1986). In view of its regular population build up, a survey of mite species and their natural enemies on cotton in Tungabhadra Project area was undertaken.

Twenty five plants were selected randomly in the field at nine locations and spider mite population counts were made along with their natural enemies. The sampling was made on third, fifth and seventh leaf on primary branches. Simultaneously, the samples of mites were collected in small glass vials containing 80% alcohol.

The identification of the specimen collected from different places revealed the presence of only one species of red spider mite, *Tetranychus macfarlanei* Baker and