

Host Preference of Pollen Beetle (*Haptoncusluteolus*) in Three Cucurbitaceous Vegetables in North-eastern Part of Bangladesh

Md. Shamim Reza^{1,2}, Pavel Ahmed¹, Md. Abu Saleh Abir¹, Md. Atikur Rahman¹,
Mubarock Khan Ridoy¹ and Md. Fuad Mondal¹

¹Department of Entomology, Sylhet Agricultural University, Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh

²Department of Agricultural Extension and Information System,
Sher-e-bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E-mail: mondalmf.entom@sau.ac.bd

Abstract—Farmers of north-east part of Bangladesh have noticed a new pest attack in bottle gourd (*Lagenariasiceraria*) named pollen beetle (*Haptoncusluteolus*). Pollen beetle belong to the Nitidulidae family of Coleoptera order. In our previous study we found that almost 3.06 times lower yield was evidenced in bottle gourd due to this insect infestation majorly in male flowers. This insect consumes the pollen from male as well as the transferred pollen from female flowers. As bottle gourd is a cucurbitaceous vegetable we conducted another experiment to check the host preference of pollen beetle in sweet gourd (*Lagenariasiceraria*) and squash gourd (*Benincasahispida*) along with bottle gourd. It was found that pollen beetle attacked severely on both male and female flowers of bottle gourd just after blooming. However, no attacked pollen beetle was observed in the sweet gourd and ash gourd plants. In control plots (natural condition) of bottle gourd, percent infestation of male flower was 72.19 ± 2.35 and percent infestation of female flower was 44.25 ± 1.50 . In the control plots, insects per flower were 5.72 ± 1.02 . In the experimental plots female flower were bagged after hand pollination. In case of bottle gourd cultivation, 2 times lower yield was evidenced in control plants compared to experimental plots. Yield was not varied in others two vegetable significantly.