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SUGARCANE PEST OF EAST PAKISTAN

By

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While conducting a survey of sugarcane crop at Gopalpur sugarcane farms (Rajshahi, East Pakistan), the author detected a serious infestation of leafhopper pest. This leafhopper has not been recorded from India or Pakistan before (Fletcher, 1919). It belorgs to the family Delphacidae, super family Fulgoroidea (Homoptera). It bears resemblance to the genus Tropidocephala Stall.

The hopper has a dark black body excepting a pale vertex. Elytra are jet black. The nymphs are pale. Eggs are deposited deeply into the tissue of sugarcane leaf along either side of midrib. The pest, including adults and nymphs live highly concealed life within the whorls of the sheathing leaves. The injury appears in the form of drying of leaves, appearance of sooty mould and yellow spots on the leaves.

It is feared that the growing population, and transport of the sugarcane from one place to another will help the pest to assume an international status. A full account of the habits, life history and taxonomy is in preparation.

REFERENCE.

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