

The results showed high level of efficacy of the EE-1 event against the Los Baños population of EFSB. A 100% mortality of EFSB larvae was observed on the detached leaf bioassay after 48 hours of feeding the EFSB with terminal leaf of Bt positive Mara x MAHYCO EE-1 and DLP x MAHYCO EE-1 backcross plants, compared with only 10-11% mortality when fed with leaves from the Bt negative plants. In addition, results of the detached immature fruit bioassay showed that fruits from Bt positive plants of event EE-1 effected 100% mortality of EFSB neonates within 6-8 days, compared to just 24% and 30% of those fed with fruits from the Bt negative BC₃F₁ Mara x MAHYCO EE-1 and BC₃F₁ DLP x MAHYCO EE-1 plants, respectively, during the same observation period. These observations indicate that growing transgenic Bt eggplant is an effective strategy for the control and management of EFSB.

3. THE SPREADING MENACE OF THE NEW INVASIVE CORN PLANTHOPPER PEST, *Stenocranus pacificus* Kirkaldy (DELPHACIDAE: HEMIPTERA)

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In 2004, an invasive planthopper species erroneously identified as *Peregrinus maidis* (Ashmead) devastated cornfields in Regions 9, 10, 11, 12 and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Diagnostic works at Plant Quarantine Support Laboratory of the National Crop Protection Center – Crop Protection Cluster, UP Los Banos and the Crop Protection Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, showed not a single *Peregrinus maidis* (Ashmead) from collections in Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato. We initially placed this planthopper under the *Sogatella* genus based on genitalia features. Recent identification with the help of experts from Australia and Britain showed that it is *Stenocranus pacificus* Kirkaldy. Stunted plants and blackened leaves due to sooty molds are the signs of attack. Later, hopper burn becomes evident on the leaves. Young corn ears fail to reach grain filling stage due to fermentation brought about by honeydew secretions.

As of 2006, this pest has been observed in two provinces of Bicol Region. In May 2008 this new pest has reached Laguna, Aurora, Pangasinan, Isabela and Cagayan. By 2009 it is reported in Occidental Mindoro, La Union, Ifugao. More corn growing areas in Luzon are now threatened. Implementation of a cooperative community- based surveillance and management program is now imperative to prevent the potential damages and spreading menace of this invasive alien pest in other corn-growing areas.