

Forewarning pertaining to thrips incidence in mulberry

A.V. Mary Josepha Shery, M. R. Subrahmanyam and B. B. Bindroo

Heavy infestation of thrips *Pseudodendrothrips mori* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) was reported from several villages in Kanakapura taluk during June -July, 2013. The level of infestation in these gardens ranged between 5 - 30%. Thrips infestation was high in poorly maintained gardens. The intermittent rainy and sunny days and fresh growth in mulberry has resulted in the increase in thrips incidence during the month. Adoption of control measures for arresting the spread of insect incidence has to be taken immediately.

Period of occurrence:

Occur throughout the year, but incidence is more from April to May and July to October

Type of damage and symptoms:

- Nymphs and adults of *P. mori* pierce the epidermis and petioles of mulberry leaves using their sucking mouthparts.
- They extract the leaf tissue causing the formation of silvery patches which are mixed with small black spots of thrips feces. This symptom helps in distinguishing damage by *P. mori* from that caused by other mulberry pests. As the leaf tissue dries beneath the epidermis the silvery patches turn brown and become depressed.
- In acute cases serious drying of the leaf tissues results in leaf curl and these leaves shrink harden and ultimately fall. Stunting, leaf curling and deformation were also observed in severely affected gardens.
- In the most severe cases all of the mulberry gardens look as if they have been burned.
- Feeding of the thrips decreases the leaf protein and moisture contents by 17.8 and 3.7% respectively.

Management:

Mechanical:

- Mulberry field should be thoroughly cleaned after harvest by removing small side branches, dead leaves and weeds in order to eliminate any developmental stages of thrips on them.

Chemical:

- Spray of 0.1% Rogor 30EC (3ml/litre) 15 days after pruning.

Biological:

- Release of *Scymnus coccivora* @ 250 beetles/acre 5 days after the spray, twice in a year at an interval of 6 months



Symptom of thrips infestation



Thrips infested garden



Nymphal stage of thrips feeding on mulberry