

Black bugs on rice

Recognize the problem

Both the adults and nymphs damage plants by sucking the plant saps. It prefers to feed on the bases of the rice stems causing the plant to weaken. Heavy infestation causes stunted growth, half-filled or empty grains, and the entire plant may dry up resulting in browning of leaves or bug burn.

Black bugs remove the sap of the plant. They can cause browning of leaves, deadheart, and bugburn. Their damage also causes stunting in plants, reduced tiller number, and formation of whiteheads.

In severe cases, black bugs weaken the plants preventing them from producing seeds.

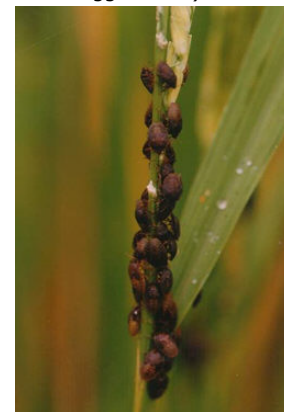
Background

Eggs are arranged in 2-4 rows on the lower parts of the rice plants near the water surface. Nymph is light brown. Adult is shiny brownish black to shiny black as it matures. During the day, the adults are found at the base of the plant and at night time they move upwards. They are moisture loving and become dormant in dry weather.

Management

- Maintain a clean field by removing the weeds and drying the rice field after plowing. Synchronize planting with neighbouring farms.
- Submerge field and remove insects by using a mosquito net.
- Drain the field (black bugs do not like dry environment).
- Crush black bugs and mix them with water and spray it to repel other black bugs.
- Conserve and attract natural enemies (e.g. wasps, grasshoppers, spiders).
- In case the measures mentioned above fail, use chemical insecticide by following recommendations of a technical expert.
- In cases of severe damages, use insecticides such as: diazinon, cypermethrin or carbosulfan. Follow the label recommendations.

Nymph on the rice stem. (Photo by www.bugguide.net)



Black bug on the rice stem (Photo by GDA/JICA Guide book for pest management)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Scotinophara coarctata* (Fabricius)

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Cambodia



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