



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

PESTS OF SAFFLOWER



SAFFLOWER APHID

Dactynotus carthami

Aphididae: Hemiptera

DISRIBUTION

- It is a major pest on safflower and regularly occurs in Andhra Pradesh. It also infests niger, gingelly, citrus, dhalia *etc.*
- The incidence of pest occurs a fortnight after crop germination.

APPEARANCE

- ✓ Adult is a quite large aphid, black in colour with conspicuous cornicle.
- ✓ Nymphs are smaller reddish brown in colour. Nymph moults four times.

- It appears at flowering and does not cause any severe damage.
- Female produces 30 young ones by parthenogenesis

NATURE OF DAMAGE

- Both nymphs and adults suck sap from tender shoots and leaves, excreting honeydew

SYMPTOMS OF DAMAGE

- Sooty mould develops
- Plants become stunted and weak.
- Heads of both nymphs and adults on the stem are oriented toward soil.



MANAGEMENT

- Avoid delayed planting
- *Brumus suturalis* is predaceous on aphids
- Two sprays at 15 day interval with monocrotophos 1.6 ml/l or dimethoate 2 ml/l or chlorpyrifos 2.5 ml/l are effective.

LEAF EATING CATERPILLARS

Prospalta capensis (Safflower catterpillar) *Spodoptera exigua*, *Helicoverpa armigera*

Noctuidae: Lepidoptera

- They are polyphagous. The larvae feed on the foliage causing extensive defoliation. Their life histories damages have been detailed under cotton
- Foliar sprays with quinalphos 2 ml/l or chlorpyriphos 2.5 ml/l are recommended.