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S O C I E T Y
(C F C S)
XIV th Meeting

*Quatorzième Congrès
de la*

SOCIETE INTERCARAIBE POUR LES PLANTES ALIMENTAIRES

Guadeloupe

Martinique

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SOUS le PATRONNAGE de MM. LES PREFETS de la GUADELOUPE
et de la MARTINIQUE

Hôtel Arawak

Gosier - Guadeloupe

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Trois Ilets - Martinique

INSECT FAUNA OF SORREL (*HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA*)

R. M. BARROW^(°)

Sorrel, *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. was grown at El Reposo demonstration Station, Sangre Grande during 1975-77 cropping seasons to determine whether the insects that occur on the crop are of economic importance.

Standard agronomic practices as outlined by Ganpat (1973) were adopted in the cultivation of the crop. No insecticides were applied. Dithane M 45 was applied at planting and at 21 day intervals until flowering commenced. Dwarf Early Red variety seed was used. The crop was sampled weekly and the following is a list of the insects regularly taken. Where known, the damage caused by the insects listed below is indicated :

COLEOPTERA

Lycidae

Calopteron sp

Coccinellidae

Cycloneda sanguinea (L.)

Chrysomelidae

Oxychalepus alienus Baly or

very near

Myochrous sp

Lexiphanes sp near *guerini*

(Perobose)

Chrysomelids most numerous insects collected. Adults feed on leaves.

Cerambycidae

Steirastoma breve Sulz.

Adults girdle stem. Larvae tunnel in stem and branches.

DIPTERA

Otitidae

Pterocalla tarsata Schiner

HEMIPTERA - HOMOPTERA

Cicadellidae

Oncometopia sp

Cercopidae

Tomaspis sp

Mebracidae

Ceresa minor Fowler

Adults and nymphs suck cell sap of stem and petioles. These insects were found throughout crop cycle and their incidence increased with maturity of crop.

(°) Ministry of Agriculture, lands and fisheries, Trinidad.

HEMIPTERA - METEOROPTERA

Pyrrhocoridae
Dysdercus mimus distanti Blote
Dysdercus honestus Blote

Adults and nymphs of this group were found piercing and sucking the flowers.

Lygaeidae
Lygaeus sp

Coreidae

Hypselonotus sp

HYMENOPTERA

Formicidae
Trachymyrmex sp

Workers of this group damage seedlings of sorrel

Ectatomma ruidum Roger

These ants attend membracids on the sorrel plant

ORTHOPTERA

Tettigoniidae
Conocephalus sp

Adults and nymphs feed on leaves

LEPIDOPTERA

Hesperidae
Eudamus catillus Cram.
Atrytone eulogius Cram.
Onaphis columbaria (H & S)

Adults are nectar feeders and larvae are leaf rollers

Dermaptera

An unindentified species.

Most of the insects listed above were identified by the Insect Identification and Beneficial Introduction Institute of the USDA. None of the insects collected seem to be of economic importance as was indicated by the yields obtained. From previous findings, the ants, *Trachymyrmex* sp. and the cocoa beetle, *Steirastoma breve* could pose some problems if their incidence went untended.

The two crops grown experienced periodic flooding especially during early flowering, i.e. November-December and several plants evidenced wilting symptoms caused by *Phytophthora* sp. Leaf spotting (*Septoria* sp.) also occurred throughout the crop cycle but this did not seem to have any economic significance on crop production.

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REFERENCES

GANPAT (R.). - *Sorrel Production* C.E.S. Bulletin No. 20 (1973).