
EXPERIMENT 12 IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTANT SAP SUCKING PESTS OF MULBERRY

Structure

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12.1 INTRODUCTION

Mulberry (*Morus* spp.) is prone to attack by a number of pests (sap suckers, leaf eaters, etc.,) which leads to considerable qualitative and / or quantitative loss. This necessitates the precise identification of the pests, recording the level of infestation and adoption of suitable control strategies to keep the pest incidence below the economic injury level. Among the several sap sucking pests of mulberry, mealy bug (*Meconellicoccus hirsutus*), thrips (*Pseudodendrothrips mori*) and jassid (*Empoasca flavescens*), are considered important. The objective of this experiment is to identify different sap sucking pests and recording the level of incidence.

Objective

After studying and performing this experiment, you should be able to:

- identify important sap sucking insect pests of mulberry based on their symptoms and calculate their incidence.

12.2 EXPERIMENT

12.2.1 Principle

The sap sucking pests of mulberry are minute to small in size with short life cycle and are capable of multiplying rapidly. Though, they occur throughout the year, their incidence greatly increases during certain seasons and cause loss of yield and / or quality decline.

12.2.2 Requirements

- Mulberry garden
- Sap sucking pests / pest attacked plant parts
- Hand lens

- Sweeping net / polythene bags
- Camel hairbrush
- Needle

12.2.3 Procedure

- Select a few plots of mulberry garden randomly.
- Observe the plants for pest infestation.
- Collect the pest attacked plant parts.
- Identify the important sap sucking pests of mulberry.
- Recording the pest incidence and calculate their incidence level.
- Repeat the same during different months.
- Analyze the attack incidence and its distribution.

12.2.4 Observations

Pest	Scientific Name	Symptoms of Attack
Mealy bug		
Thrips		
Jassid		

12.2.5 Results

- a) Based on the presence of pest / symptoms of attack, the sap sucking pests are identified as _____, _____ and _____.
- b) The per cent incidence of mealy bug, thrips and jassid _____, _____ and _____, respectively.

12.3 PRECAUTIONS

- Observe the distinct morphological features for the identification of the pests.
- Observe the pest attacked plant parts carefully for the typical symptoms of pest attack.