

# Survey and Identification of Major Insect Pests of Seed Spices in Ethiopia

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## Abstract

Insect pests inflict damage to humans, farm animals and crops. Subsistence cash crop production is essential for the growing population of Africa. Seed spices occupy an important place for their flavoring, culinary uses and essential oil derivatives. They are also valued for their coloring, as preservatives and fumigants, in pharmaceutical, textile and other industry. However, insect pests are major limiting factors for the cultivation and production of these plants in many agro-ecologies of the country (Emma Christensen, 2014). A survey was conducted in major growing areas of Ethiopia during 2016 and 2018 main cropping season with an aim of identifying problematic insect pests and providing baseline information on pests of black cumin, fenugreek, coriander and white cumin in different agro-ecologies of Ethiopia. Samples were randomly collected from insect infested plants from each study location for laboratory inspection. Specimens of unidentified insects were kept in vials containing ethanol for identification. All specimens were classified into their respective orders, families, genera and species. Generally, the result revealed that pod borer was a common insect pest on black cumin and fenugreek and aphid was a common insect pest recorded on fenugreek. Management study which solves the problem of insects on seed spice must be designed in the future on pod borer, aphids, cut worm and leaf minor.

**Keywords:** Seed spice, Insect pest, Survey.

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## 1. Introduction

Insects are the most diverse species of animals living on earth. Insects are undoubtedly the most adaptable form of life as their total numbers far exceed that of any other animal category (Mohamed N. Sallam, 2011). The majority of insects are directly important to humans and the environment. For example, several insect species are predators or parasitoids on other harmful pests; others are pollinators, decomposers of organic matter or producers of valuable products such as honey or silk. Some can be used to produce pharmacologically active compounds such as venoms or antibodies. Less than 0.5 percentage of the total number of the known insect species are considered pests, and only a few of these can be a serious menace to people. Insect pests inflict damage to humans, farm animals and crops. Subsistence cash crop production is essential for the growing population of Africa. In Ethiopia highland seed spices are produced in different area. But till know detailed assessment of insect pests are not undertaken at different parts of the country. So the objective of this study was to identify major insect pests of seed spices and know their distribution across the country.

## 2. Material and methods:

### 2.1. Study site and Materials

The study was conducted at different locations namely; Shirka, Hela Zembaba, Birbof Chole, Hela Tereta, Akaki, Chafe Donsa, Bishoftu, Goro, Ginir, Gololcha, Sirinka, Takusa, Chefa, Dembia and Wolkite from 2016 to 2018. The quadrant to sample the spice population and sample bag to collect the unidentified pest was used during the survey.

### 2.2. Insect identification

A survey for the insect pest of major seed spices of Ethiopia was conducted from October 2016 to November 2016 and October 2018 to November 2018 for two years. Potential seed spices producing regions of Ethiopia (Oromia, Amhara and SNNPRS) was surveyed for the occurrence of the insect pests. Stratified random sampling technique was employed to sample regions, woredas, and zones. From each woreda survey fields was selected from the farmer's field. From each zone six small scale producers was selected after getting the name of the producers and size of production data from bureau of agriculture (BOA), and apply random sampling technique to sample the field. From each field a bunch was sampled randomly by using "X" path, when the plantation was sole and follows standard recommended cultivation. Each stand was divided in to three strata (near to the ground level, at the middle and at the top) to sample the leaves. From each stratum four leaves was selected. Totally 12 leaves was sampled from each stand to record severity and incidence of insect damage around the pest foci, in

order to collect the insect at any of its growth stages (larva, pupa or adult). Infected spices were diagnosed for characteristic internal and/or external symptoms of the pest attack and the incidence and severity of the damages it caused was recorded. Besides, information related to the history of the field, such as type of crops and/or cultivars grown, planting year (estimated age), types of cultural practices and previous cropping system of the field was recorded.

### 3. Results and Discussions

From the survey result we observed that many insects affect seed spices and contribute to yield losses occur in the field. For instance pod borer, aphids and leaf minor was the serious insects observed in all areas in addition to skeletonizer. From the table below we understand that pod borer, aphids and cutworm were the major insect pests challenging the production of black cumin and fenugreek spices in the area.

**Table 1: The average insects observed during the survey on different spices at different locations**

Region	Study location	Spice								Order	Family	Seed spice damaged part/s
		Black cumin	Damage (%)	Fenugreek	Damage (%)	Coriander	Damage (%)	White cumin	Damage (%)			
		Insect pests recorded		Insect pests recorded		Insect pests recorded		Insect pests recorded				
Oromia	Bishoftu	Pod borer	35	Pod borer	11	Pod borer	1	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	9	Aphids	15	Aphids	2	Aphids	3	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	10	Cutworm	4	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	3	Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Chafe Donsa	Pod borer	25	Pod borer	9	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	6	Aphids	14	Aphids	1	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	5	Cutworm	3	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Shirka (Hela Zembaba, Hela Tereta)	Pod borer	32	Pod borer	10	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	10	Aphids	17	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	10	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	0	Cutworm	0	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	3	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Kulumsa	Pod borer	20	Pod borer	7	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	6	Aphids	16	Aphids	3	Aphids	1	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	8	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	3	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Sinana	Pod borer	30	Pod borer	6	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	13	Aphids	12	Aphids	3	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	5	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	3	Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Bale Robe	Pod borer	15	Pod borer	6	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	8	Aphids	14	Aphids	3	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	7	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	0	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
Jimma (Bashasha)	Pod borer	12	Pod borer	5	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods	
	Aphids	7	Aphids	12	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots	
	Cutworm	3	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings	
	Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf	

	Ginir	Pod borer	18	Pod borer	7	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	6	Aphids	13	Aphids	3	Aphids	1	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	7	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
Amhara	Srinka	Pod borer	18	Pod borer	5	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	1	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	9	Aphids	10	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	0	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Dembia	Pod borer	12	Pod borer	6	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	7	Aphids	10	Aphids	2	Aphids	1	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	2	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
	Chefa	Pod borer	16	Pod borer	5	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	10	Aphids	9	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	2	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	0	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	0	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf
Takusa	Pod borer	19	Pod borer	6	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods	
	Aphids	8	Aphids	12	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots	
	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings	
	Leaf minor	2	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf	
SNNPRS	Wolkite	Pod borer	12	Pod borer	5	Pod borer	0	Pod borer	0	Hemiptera	Miridae	Pods
		Aphids	7	Aphids	13	Aphids	2	Aphids	2	Homoptera	Aphididae	Leaves and shoots
		Cutworm	1	Cutworm	2	Cutworm	1	Cutworm	1	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Seedlings
		Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	1	Leaf minor	0	Leaf minor	0	Diptera	Agromyzidae	Leaf

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study is the first known extensive research for identification of the insect pest, associated with seed spices in Ethiopia. On black cumin pod borer and aphid were found the common insect pests as the main production limiting factor and on coriander and fenugreek aphids were found the common insect pests as the main production limiting factor. The results obtained may assist in developing an integrated control program for these insect pest identified. More detailed investigations should be carried out on biology of insect pest. For future integrated pest management should be designed to manage these economic important insect pests.

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