

Pyrilla—Sugarcane Leaf Hopper

Sugarcane leaf hopper (*Pyrilla*) is a well known pest, attacking sugarcane in India. Adults and nymphs of this pest suck plant sap from the underside of the sugarcane leaf, which results in the affected leaves becoming pale, presenting a sickly and blighted appearance. Due to its attack, the affected canes become useless and the recovery of *gur* and sugar is considerably reduced. In case of heavy infestation, even preparation of good quality *gur* becomes difficult.

The adult *pyrilla* bug is a medium-sized straw-coloured insect, with the head drawn into a distinct and pointed peak and two pairs of wings are folded on the back in roof shape. The adult insect is about $\frac{3}{4}$ " long with a wing expanse of $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The young-ones of this pest are called nymphs which are active pale brown hopping creatures. Swarms of these insects are found on the leaves of sugarcane crop in the infected fields. Eggs are laid in batches on the underside of a leaf close to the mid-rib when the crop is young and on the inner side of the sheaths of leaves in case of the grown-up crop. The eggs are pale white to whitish blue in colour, which are covered with white wax threads derived from the anal tuft of the female.

Control Measures as Recommended

(a) *Dusts* :—Application of 5 per cent BHC dust @ 20-30 lbs. per acre in the early stages ; 33-50 lbs. per

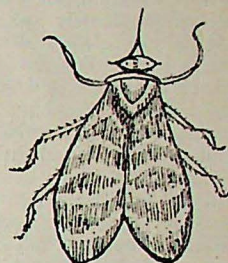
acre where the inter-nodal formation has set in and 50-80 lbs. per acre in full-grown crop.

The pre-monsoon attack of *Pyrilla* can be effectively controlled by this treatment. Dusting operations should be carried out in the morning when there is no wind and the sugarcane leaves are wet with dew. BHC 7 to 10 per cent dust can also be used for quick results.

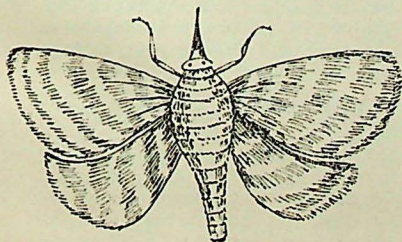
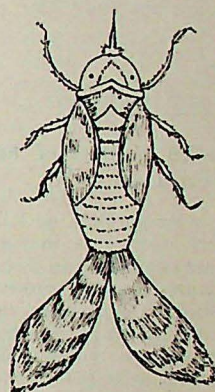
(b) *Sprays* :—(i) D. D. T. 0.25 per cent suspension ; (ii) BHC 0.25 per cent suspension ; (iii) Toxaphene 0.25 per cent emulsion ; (iv) Endrin 0.1 lb. of actual emulsion per acre ; and (v) Malathion 0.1 per cent emulsion.

The requirement of spray material per acre would be 25-50 gallons in the early stages of the growth and 100-150 gallons afterwards according to the size of the crop. For control of the pest in the post-monsoon period, preference should be given to spray as far as practicable.

Pyrilla
Adult



Pyrilla
Nymph



Pyrilla Adult

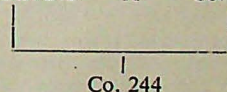
Better Sugarcane Cultivation

The cultivation of Co. 244 is restricted to Bulandshahr district in Western Uttar Pradesh, where it occupies an area of about 2,500 acres. The variety was sent from Coimbatore to State Research Stations in the year 1922.

susceptible to smut and tolerant to mosaic.

Co. 244 was evolved at Coimbatore by crossing P. O. J. 213 with

P.O.J. 213 X Co. 205



Co. 244

Main Characteristics of the Variety

Co. 244 is a hard-rinded cane of lodging habit. It comes up fairly well even under indifferent cultivation and is therefore, called a "Poor man's cane". It is late in ripening, poor in sucrose and inferior in *rab* and sugar. It shows a certain amount of resistance to insect attacks and is fairly resistant to red rot, but

Co. 205 in which P. O. J. 213 was used as mother and Co. 205 as father. It has medium-thin, staggered and solid canes with fairly hard rind and greenish brown internal tissue. The colour of the cane is green, sometimes pale-green with