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FALSE CHINCH BUG-AN EMERGING THREAT TO AGRICULTURAL CROPS

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Abstract

Nysius is a genus of false chinch bugs in the family Lygaeidae. False chinch bug (FCB), *Nysius* sp. (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) is a highly polyphagous and occasional pest in the world, where it may become an emerging pest. Their capabilities to give rise to outbreaks, mainly during warm and dry periods, make the insect a major pest in a number of countries. It has a smaller size with greyish-brown coloration and transparent wings. FCB has incomplete metamorphosis. It causes damage by using piercing-sucking mouthparts; both nymph and adult of FCB puncture stems, foliage, and fruits then sucking cell sap from it. FCB causes an average of 10-90 % seed yield loss in agricultural crops. For management purposes cultural practices viz., use of resistant cultivars, deep ploughing, sprinkler irrigation, and removal of alternate weed hosts should be adopted; mechanical practices viz., boll weevil traps with mustard oil compounds, yellow sticky trap, and blue sticky trap are used; physical control by using low radio frequency level. Predators like, bigeyed bugs, lynx spiders, jumping spiders, sphecids, chrysids, birds, and parasitoids like *Telenomus ovivorus*, *Phasia occidentis* are used for biological control to mitigate infestations in the field. And the chemicals like thiamethoxam, proflufenfos, cypermethrin, Spinosad, Lambda-cyhalothrin, imidacloprid caused significant FCB mortality.

Author Keywords

False chinch bug, Life cycle, Seasonal incidence, Nature of damage

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