



RED BANDED THRIPS INFESTATION IN CASHEW PLANTS

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Abstract

Thrips are one of the pests infesting cashew. Red banded thrips infests leaves and flowers. Infestation at nursery stage can lead to death of the seedling. This article provides details on its host range, biology, damage symptoms and management measures.

Key words: thrips, cashew, leaf crinkling, red banded.

Introduction

The cashew is an economically important tree nut crop grown in tropical and semi-tropical regions of the world. It grows in a wide range of climatic and soil conditions. The cashewnuts and the cashew apples (pseudo fruits) are highly nutritious. Cashew has a wide range of food and industrial applications. Apart from nuts and fruits, the cashewnut shell liquid (CNSL) which is a by-product obtained while processing the raw cashewnuts also has its applications in the manufacture of brake linings, friction dust, resins, paint and lacquer, etc. Further, anacardic acid, cardanol and cardol derived from the CNSL have great pharmaceutical applications. Among the various biotic and abiotic stresses limiting cashew productivity, insects are considered important.

Pests of cashew

Cashew is known to be infested by nearly 400 insect pests all over the world (Vanitha and Saroj, 2015). Among all pests infesting cashew, two pests namely tea mosquito bug (*Helopeltis* spp.) (Miridae: Hymenoptera), cashew stem and root borer (*Neoplocaederus* spp.)