

A B S T R A C T

*Frankliniella insularis* (Franklin) is a blossom-dwelling species. Studies of some aspects of its biology and ecology including its relationship to the plant and to other insect species on the plant were initiated in an effort to determine its potential pest status on pigeon pea.

*F. insularis* takes 5.5 - 9.5 days to complete its life cycle on pigeon pea and this is found to be closely related to the development of the flowers. The species has been collected from 25 different host plants. Immigrant adults from these alternate host plants may be responsible for initial infestations on pigeon pea. Adult populations display a delayed density-dependence in relation to some factor(s) of the environment. Immature stages (which lack wings) seem to be more indicative of the resident population. These numbers are usually low.

A mean 47.3% reduction in pod-set was observed at infestations levels of 0.7 - 3.6 thrips/flower. This may be indicative of its potential as a pest on the crop. No conclusive results were obtained about adverse or beneficial species in relation to *F. insularis*.

ANTHONY,

MY HUSBAND,