

ABSTRACT

A study of the pepper flower bud moth Gnorimoschema capsicum (BRADLEY and POVOLNY) was undertaken between December and March, 1969 to determine its life history, distribution and parasites in Trinidad. Literature on this moth was reviewed. Gnorimoschema capsicum, though previously recorded as a serious pest of peppers in Puerto Rico, Texas and Montserrat had not been recorded as a pest in Trinidad. This study was an attempt to assess the pest status of this moth in Trinidad.

A life history study revealed that male and female adults lived for six to seven days. There were four instars or stadia in its life history, with a pupal period lasting between seven and nine days. No eggs were obtained from moths either in the laboratory or under simulated field conditions. Larval infestation usually resulted in bud drop.

For the field survey four main pepper growing areas were sampled at monthly intervals. Plot sizes varied from between a few hundred yards to one quarter of an acre. One hundred random bud samples were used from three varieties of Capsicum namely hot, sweet and bird peppers. Buds were divided into two types, un-opened green and white, with infestation expressed as percentage bud damage. Bud infestation seemed to vary with rainfall.