

## INTRODUCTION

### Scope and Object of The Investigations

The investigations, begun in November 1941 and finished in June 1942, were started with the object of studying the habits and life history of Laphygma frugiperda under Trinidad conditions, to discover if possible the reason why this species was a much less serious pest in Trinidad than it is in some of the islands to the north, and to see if any control measures for these other islands could be suggested as a result. It was also hoped to study the life history of Heliothis armigera with the same objects in mind.

Maize is normally planted in Trinidad during the months of June to October and in December; there are thus two distinct crops taken during the year over most of the island, and it seems that the first of these is regarded as the most important. The investigations therefore suffered from the beginning from the fact that only one crop, and this the more unimportant, could be studied through its entire development. When the investigations began the October-sown corn on the College farm was suffering from an attack of Laphygma, but this ~~attack~~ ceased abruptly when the tassels appeared about the end of November, and no attack by Heliothis developed on the cobs.

Investigations were almost entirely confined to the I.C.T.A. farm, because here there was an area of several acres under maize, from which samples could be drawn, and also because most of the rest of the maize on the island seems to be grown in very small plots, which are not easy to study because of their size, and from the owners of which there might be considerable difficulty in obtaining permission to remove plants. Also, as this work had to be done as a part-time task for which only four or five afternoons a week were available, it was thought best to confine attentions to plots of maize which were easily accessible. Observations made away from the College farm were therefore mainly cursory, but conditions elsewhere in the island did not appear to differ markedly from those found at St. Augustine.