

ABSTRACT:

This exercise is intended to be a critical review of available literature pertaining to the entomology of pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.).

The material covered shows a much wider range and quantity of information on pest species than on any other aspect of the crop's entomology. Much of the recorded work is descriptive in nature usually covering the bionomics of a single species. Some researchers have noted a lack of comprehensive ecological studies on the insect pest spectrum of the crop.

In recent times, there has been a trend towards more studies on damage levels and loss assessment. The review also includes reports of beneficial insects and control measures.

Principal insect attack is found to be at the flowering and podding stage. Usually a lepidopterous/dipterous larvae boring complex is responsible for the damage. In comparison blossom-dwelling Thysanoptera are relegated to a minor role. Some species are known to cause

flower distortion, malformation and drop. More usually there is no economic assessment of this group but one study sets damage (reduction of pod-set) at 36%.

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