

INTRODUCTION

In this work it was originally intended to firstly make a survey of the Aphids of the St. Augustine district, and secondly to conduct experiments to study certain biological factors which affect their reproduction and development.

The survey was carried out on all the food and cash crops grown in the district, but time did not allow for the study of the Aphids of wild and ornamental plants as was originally intended. A description of each of the five species found has been made, together with a simple key for distinguishing them in the field, based on the characters which are readily seen under a hand lens.

With regard to the experimental work, the main objective in view was a study of the effects of overcrowding upon reproduction and the rate of development of alate forms. The Aphid selected for this was Toxoptera aurantiae (Boyer) with cocoa as the host plant.

An investigation into the occurrence of disease symptoms on banana seedlings infested by an Aphid was also made, and is dealt with under Section 3.