



# Seasonal Incidence of Insect Pests and Predatory Fauna on Toria (*Brassica rapa*) in West Central Tableland of Odisha, India

Saswati Parija <sup>a++\*</sup> and Lopamudra Biswal <sup>a#</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar (751003), Odisha, India.

## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/IJECC/2023/v13i113162

## Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/107341>

Original Research Article

Received: 24/07/2023

Accepted: 30/09/2023

Published: 06/10/2023

## ABSTRACT

The present field investigation was conducted for two consecutive *Rabi* seasons of years 2021/22 and 2022/23 at the College of Horticulture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Chiplima, Odisha to record the seasonal incidence of major insect pests with the predatory fauna on toria (*Brassica rapa*) in relation to meteorological parameters. The occurring pest complex in both seasons constituted a total nine number of insects and three consistent predatory fauna.

The highest peak population of pests recorded for 2021/22 were: mustard aphid (3.7 A.I plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), whitefly (25.9 whiteflies plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), painted bug (13.37 nymphs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), mustard sawfly (12 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW), flea beetle (12.45 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), diamondback moth (1.3 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 52<sup>nd</sup> SMW), leaf Webber (6.45 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 51<sup>st</sup> SMW), Bihar hairy caterpillar (29.3 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW) and tobacco caterpillar (8.9 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 49<sup>th</sup> SMW). Similarly, the highest peak population of pests recorded for 2022/23

<sup>++</sup> M.Sc (Ag);

<sup>#</sup> Assistant Professor;

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: saswati.parija07@gmail.com;

were: mustard aphid (3.82 A.I plant<sup>-1</sup> at 51<sup>st</sup> SMW), whitefly (23.8 whiteflies plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), painted bug (13.7 nymphs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> at 51<sup>st</sup> SMW), mustard sawfly (15 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW), flea beetle (13.45 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW), diamondback moth (1.2 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 47<sup>th</sup> SMW), leaf Webber (5.45 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 51<sup>st</sup> SMW) which coincided the abundance of natural enemies namely, coccinellid predators, syrphid fly and spider between 50<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> SMW of the experimental year for both seasons.

The correlation of insect pest density with weather parameters (*Rabi*, 2021/22) showed negative correlations with  $T_{max}$  (mustard aphid, painted bug, flea beetle, leaf Webber, diamondback moth, Bihar hairy caterpillar),  $T_{min}$  (all pests), rainfall (mustard aphid, whitefly, mustard sawfly, flea beetle, tobacco caterpillar), RH% at 7 hours (all pests), and RH% at 14 hours (mustard aphid, whitefly, painted bug, leaf Webber, diamondback moth, Bihar hairy caterpillar). For natural enemies,  $T_{max}$ ,  $T_{min}$ , RH% at 7 hours, RH% at 14 hours, and wind velocity had negative effects on their population, while rainfall had a positive influence. However, in *Rabi* 2022/23,  $T_{max}$ ,  $T_{min}$ , and RH% at 14 hours negatively influenced the pest population mostly except for wind velocity and RH% at 7 hours. For predators, wind velocity showed positive correlation with its' population.

**Keywords:** Seasonal incidence; rapeseed-toria; insect pests; natural enemies; meteorological parameters.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Toria (*Brassica rapa* Linnaeus, 2n (2x) = 20) is a significant oilseed crop in India grown during the *Rabi* season. Belonging to the Brassicaceae family. It is commonly known as sarson or lahi and has its origin in South-East Asia through the crossing of *Brassica nigra* and *B. campestris* [1,2]. Rapeseed-mustard, including toria, encompasses eight different species and is cultivated in 53 countries worldwide. The place of origin of rapeseed is Eastern Afghanistan and adjoining part of India and Pakistan [3]. In India, rapeseed-mustard contributes nearly 80% of the total *Rabi* oilseed production and is widely grown in various states.[4].

However, despite the availability of good production technology, the crop faces challenges due to various biotic and abiotic factors. Insect pests are a major constraint, causing significant yield losses. Mustard aphid, mustard sawfly, leaf miner, painted bug, flea beetle, diamondback moth, cabbage aphid and green peach aphid are the insects infesting the crop in India [5]. To manage these pests, the primary priority is to understand the pest ecology and pest cycle along with the susceptible crop growth stages. Predatory fauna like coccinellid beetles [6], etc play a vital role in crop ecosystem. In the context of Odisha's north-western plateau region, limited research has been conducted on insect-pest complex of toria. Therefore, an experiment was carried out to study the seasonal incidence of important insect pests and their natural enemies on toria with meteorological parameters like maximum and minimum temperature, morning

and evening relative humidity, rainfall on development and survival of the insect pests and natural enemies was studied. By focusing on sustainable practices, farmers can improve toria production and reduce yield losses caused by insect pests.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field experiment was conducted for two consecutive *Rabi* seasons of years 2021/22 and 2022/23 at the Experimental Farm, College of Horticulture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Chiplima, Odisha. "Sushree" variety was selected and sown in an area of 200 m<sup>2</sup> with a spacing of 30 cm row to row and 10 cm plant to plant. All recommended agronomical practices were followed to raise the crop. Observations on the incidence of major insect-pests and predators were counted from 10 plants randomly, recorded at weekly intervals starting from two weeks after sowing till the crop maturity.

Weekly weather data was obtained from the regional research and technology transfer station (RRTTS), Chiplima, Odisha. The correlation coefficients between the incidence of insect pests/ predators and weather factors *i.e.*,  $T_{max}$ ,  $T_{min}$ , rainfall, RH% (7 hr.), RH%(14hr.), wind velocity was calculated.

### 2.1 Observations on Important Insect Pests

#### 2.1.1 Mustard aphid

Ten plants were selected randomly and from each plant, aphid population was worked out in

terms of aphid index (0-4 scale) based on method suggested by Butani and Bharodia [7], which has been presented below in list 1.

### 2.1.2 Other important insect pests and natural enemies

Ten plants were selected randomly and from each plant average number of insects per plant *i.e.*, Whitefly (No. of adults plant<sup>-1</sup>), Painted bug (No. of nymphs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup>), Mustard sawfly (No. of larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>), Flea beetle (No. of grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup>), Leaf Webber (No. of larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>), Diamondback moth (No. of larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>), Tobacco caterpillar (No. of larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>), Bihar hairy caterpillar (No. of larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>), Coccinellid predators (No. of grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup>), Syrphid fly (No. of maggots plant<sup>-1</sup>) and Spider (No. of adults plant<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated.

**List 1. Aphid index infestation scale**

Index scale	Aphid infestation
0	Plant free from aphid infection
1	Aphids present but colonies are not built up
2	Small colonies of aphid present
3	Large colonies of aphids present on tender plant parts (Counts are possible)
4	Entire plants covered by aphid and counts impossible

The average aphid index worked out by adopting the following formula:

$$\text{Average Aphid Index (A.I.)} = \frac{0N + 1N + 2N + 3N + 4N}{\text{Total no of plants observed.}}$$

Where;

0, 1, 2, 3, 4 are aphid index

N = Number of plants showing respective aphid index

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nine insect pests namely mustard aphid (*Lipaphis erysimi* Kalténbach), whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius), painted bug (*Bagrada hilaris* Kirkaldy), mustard sawfly (*Athalia lugens proxima* Kluger), flea beetle (*Phyllotreta cruciferae* Goeze, *Monolepta signata* Olivier), leaf Webber (*Crocidolomia binotalis* Zeller), diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella* Linnaeus), tobacco caterpillar (*Spodoptera litura* Fabricius), Bihar hairy caterpillar (*Spilarctia obliqua* Walker) were detected at different stages of the crop growth. Among natural enemies of the pests observed were, coccinellid predators (*Coccinella transversalis*, *Menochilus sexmaculatus*

*Fabricius* and *Coccinella californica* Mannerheim), syrphid fly (*Episyrphus balteatus*) and spider. There was significant difference in the occurrence of insect pests during the two observed seasons *i.e.*, Rabi of 2021/22 and 2022/23.

### 3.1 Seasonal Incidence of Insect Pests and Predators on Toria during Rabi of 2021/22 and 2022/23

#### 3.1.1 Mustard aphid

The data (Tables 1 and 2) clearly indicated that the overall population of mustard aphid persisted throughout the growing season of toria specifically during vegetative maturity stage and it lasted up to the siliqua harvest stage *i.e.*, 45<sup>th</sup> SMW to 2<sup>nd</sup> SMW (of next year) for both the seasons. The peak population of the pest was 3.7 A. I plant-1 (50<sup>th</sup> SMW) and 3.82 A. I plant-1 (51<sup>st</sup> SMW) during Rabi, 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively. Earlier to this, Nayak [8] and other workers (Mandawi *et al.* [9], Pradhan *et al.* [10], Yadav *et al.* [11]) reported similar observations in their experiments.

#### 3.1.2 Whitefly

It was evident from the recorded data (Tables 1 and 2) that pest density of whitefly in the growing period of toria persisted throughout the vegetative maturity stage and continued up to siliqua harvest stage *i.e.*, 45<sup>th</sup> SMW to 1<sup>st</sup> SMW (of next year) for the Rabi seasons. The pest density peaked at 25.9 adults plant<sup>-1</sup> (50<sup>th</sup> SMW) and 23.8 adults plant<sup>-1</sup> (50<sup>th</sup> SMW) during Rabi of 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively. Syed *et al.* [12], in his experiment found almost similar results.

#### 3.1.3 Painted bug

The pest infestation initiated at the flowering stage of the crop *i.e.*, 46<sup>th</sup> SMW. The peak painted bug population in toria was observed with 13.37 nymphs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> (50<sup>th</sup> SMW) in Rabi of 2021/22 and 13.7 nymphs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> (51<sup>st</sup> SMW) in Rabi of 2022/23. However, varied but similar results were also observed in the field studies undertaken by Divya *et al.* [13], where the data revealed that incidence of painted bug started in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December in both years and attained first peak during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January.

### 3.1.4 Mustard Sawfly

The occurrence of mustard sawfly on toria during *Rabi* of 2021/22, was observed initially at 45<sup>th</sup> SMW, which coincided the vegetative maturity stage. The population attained peak (12.0 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW. Similar pest density results were also confirmed in an experiment conducted by Pradhan *et al.* [14] as data revealed occurrence of sawfly during 51<sup>st</sup> SMW *i.e.*, 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December.

Conversely, the population density of the said pest during *Rabi* of 2022/23, was surprisingly different from the previous season observation (Tables 1 and 2). The pest began its infestations quite earlier *i.e.*, 44<sup>th</sup> SMW (almost 2 weeks after sowing). The peak population was 15.00 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW and the infestation lasted up to siliqua harvest stage of the crop. These results confirmed to the findings of Pal *et al.* [15] where, incidence of mustard sawfly on varieties *Urvashi*, GSC6, BSH1, YST151, T27, DRMR IJ-31 were recorded in a range of 0 to 2.6 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> in 45<sup>th</sup> standard meteorological week (SMW) and found till 48<sup>th</sup> SMW.

### 3.1.5 Flea beetle

The results on flea beetle population were apparent on infestation (Tables 1 and 2) that started with 8.34 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> from 46<sup>th</sup> SMW (flowering stage) and continued up to 2 SMW (2<sup>nd</sup> week of January). The peak level of population was observed at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW (12.45 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> in *Rabi* of 2021/22 and 13.45 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> in *Rabi* of 2022/23. Our finding are much similar with that of Pradhan *et al.* [10], where flea beetle was observed during 51<sup>st</sup> SMW *i.e.*, 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December 2018 and active till 9<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2019 and maximum population (1.60 plant<sup>-1</sup>) was observed during the 6<sup>th</sup> SMW.

### 3.1.6 Leaf webber

Current findings (Tables 1 and 2) revealed that the leaf Webber incidence was observed first at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, siliqua development of the crop. Its peak level was seen as 6.45 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW in 2021-22. However, in *Rabi* of 2022-23, the larval population was highest and consistent throughout the 51<sup>st</sup>-52<sup>nd</sup> SMW (5.44-5.45 larva plant<sup>-1</sup>). Thereafter, the pest population decreased and disappeared at the time of harvesting. Similar results of pest density had been reported by Pawar *et al.* [16], where

larval population of leaf Webber on mustard started to build up after 2<sup>nd</sup> week of sowing *i.e.*, 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November (1.60 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) and ranged between 1.10 to 9.20 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>.

### 3.1.7 Diamondback moth

The initial population of the pest (Tables 1 and 2) started at 46<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, flowering stage. The highest peak of incidence was 1.3 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 52<sup>nd</sup> SMW (siliqua development stage) during *Rabi* of 2021/22. Conversely the following season (*Rabi* of 2022/23), insect's peak population (1.2 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) was observed at 47<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, flowering stage. This corroborates with the findings of Shaila *et al.* [17], who reported first appearance of diamondback moth was during vegetative stage of the crop and the peak incidence of *Plutella xylostella* (12.31 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) was observed at 49<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, during 1<sup>st</sup> week of December, later the population declined gradually.

### 3.1.8 Bihar hairy caterpillar

The first appearance of the pest during *Rabi* 2021/22 (Tables 1 and 2) on toria was at 48<sup>th</sup> SMW *i.e.*, flowering stage. Its peak population was 29.3 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup> at 50<sup>th</sup> SMW. Kashyap *et al.* [18], concluded the similar results on the incidence of Bihar hairy caterpillar that started from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December (50<sup>th</sup> SMW) with 0.02 larvae per plant and population ranged from 0.02 to 0.12 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>. However, during *Rabi* of 2022/23, there was no incidence of the said pest throughout the crop season.

### 3.1.9 Tobacco caterpillar

The polyphagous pest, tobacco caterpillar (Tables 1 and 2) during *Rabi* of 2021/22 appeared at the vegetative maturity stage *i.e.*, 45<sup>th</sup> SMW (5.6 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) and attained its peak population (8.9 larvae plant<sup>-1</sup>) at 49<sup>th</sup> SMW, *i.e.*, siliqua development stage. Likewise, resembling outcomes were reported by Kumar *et al.* [19]. In *Rabi* of 2022/23, there was no incidence of pests throughout the cropping season.

### 3.1.10 Coccinellid predators

The aphid appeared at a very early stage of the crop, which was synchronized with the activities of predatory coccinellid beetles (Tables 1 and 2) *i.e.*, 44<sup>th</sup> SMW. The peak population of the

**Table 1. Seasonal incidence of insect pests and predators on toria under field conditions during *Rabi*, 2021/22**

WAS	SMW	Aphid Index (0-4 Scale)	Mean No. of insect pests (adults/nymphs/grubs/larvae/plant)								Mean No. of predators (adults/maggots/grubs/plant)		
			Mustard aphid	White fly	Painted bug	Mustard sawfly	Flea beetle	Diamond Back moth	Leaf Webber	BHC	TC	Coccinellid	Syrphid fly
2	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.09	0	0
3	45	0.01	0.05	0	0.02	0	0	0	0	5.6	2.09	0	0.08
4	46	2.01	18.53	5.77	8.3	8.34	0.35	0	0	5.78	4.2	1.01	0.09
5	47	3.34	23.3	8.61	9.71	10.0	0.90	0	0	6.77	4.38	1.03	0.09
6	48	2.94	21.8	8.92	12.0	11.03	0.91	3.24	10.3	6.9	4.78	1.02	0.13
7	49	2.9	24.4	9.11	11.37	11.24	0.89	5.26	24.9	8.9	4.56	1.01	0.19
8	50	3.7	25.9	13.37	10.5	12.45	0.98	6.33	29.3	7.96	4.77	1.02	0.14
9	51	3.5	24.53	12.81	8.45	11.23	1.0	6.45	28.5	7.56	4.67	1.24	0.09
10	52	2.4	10.10	10.5	3.05	7.56	1.3	5.7	24.9	5.23	4.75	1.58	0.18
11	1	1.5	5.3	6.3	0	3.2	0.5	4.3	10.0	1.22	5.11	1.19	0.12
12	2	1.01	0	2.21	0	2.45	0	0	0	0	5.21	2.09	0.25
13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.34	1.95	0.37

\* WAS – Weeks after sowing, SMW- Standard meteorological weeks, BHC -Bihar hairy caterpillar and TC- Tobacco caterpillar.

**Table 2. Seasonal incidence of insect pests and predators on toria under field conditions during *Rabi*, 2022/23**

WAS	SMW	Aphid Index (0-4 Scale)	Mean No. of insect pests (adults/nymphs/grubs/larvae/plant)						Mean No. of predators (adults/maggots/grubs/plant)		
			Mustard aphid	White fly	Painted bug	Mustard sawfly	Flea beetle	Diamond Back moth	Leaf Webber	Coccinellid	Syrphid fly
2	44	0	0	0	0.9	0	0	0	0.5	0	0
3	45	0.09	0.05	0	2.8	0	0	0	2.0	0	0.09
4	46	2.50	15.5	4.9	5.2	6.64	0.45	0	4.35	1.01	0.08
5	47	3.39	20.3	7.91	8.41	10.5	1.2	0	4.42	1.5	0.09
6	48	3.57	21.0	8.05	15.0	11.03	0.93	3.54	4.54	1.92	0.5
7	49	3.01	20.4	9.2	12.07	11.5	0.89	4.29	4.66	1.88	0.29
8	50	2.9	23.8	12.57	11.5	13.45	0.97	5.44	4.89	1.56	0.24
9	51	3.82	21.57	13.7	6.47	11.23	1.0	5.45	4.63	1.24	0.19
10	52	2.9	12.13	11.5	2.35	9.56	1.0	3.43	4.75	1.28	0.18
11	1	1.5	8.3	7.5	0.8	5.6	0	0	5.01	1.19	0.22
12	2	1.0	0	3.01	0.2	3.45	0	0	5.11	2.08	0.30
13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	1.87	0.35

\* WAS – Weeks after sowing, SMW- Standard meteorological weeks, BHC -Bihar hairy caterpillar and TC- Tobacco caterpillar

**Table 3. Correlation coefficient (r) of different weather parameters with insect pests/predators on toria during Rabi, 2021/22**

Insect pests/ predators	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall	Relative Humidity (%) after (hours)		Wind velocity
	Maximum	Minimum		7	14	
Mustard aphid	-0.16289	-0.31019	-0.01596	-0.14107	-0.04429	0.34454
Whitefly	0.05017	-0.17701	-0.21794	-0.19144	-0.00796	0.41522
Painted bug	-0.25794	-0.46406	0.05909	-0.15568	-0.13125	0.24994
Mustard sawfly	0.08214	-0.05556	-0.22966	-0.15782	0.06633	0.52870
Flea beetle	-0.12572	-0.23720	-0.03698	-0.12362	0.02535	0.45989
Leaf Webber	-0.40514	-0.66241*	0.04751	-0.17188	-0.25636	0.00891
Bihar hairy caterpillar	-0.40034	-0.60401*	0.07344	-0.21424	-0.27809	0.10778
Diamondback moth	-0.22520	-0.35913	0.16574	-0.01969	-0.07002	0.31657
Tobacco caterpillar	0.12108	-0.02447	-0.16841	-0.12467	0.02186	0.57265*
Coccinellid	-0.69326*	-0.58913*	0.244511	-0.05138	0.031869	-0.20009
Syrphid fly	-	-0.52899	0.490033	-0.02627	-0.00883	-0.28531
	0.83003**					
Spider	-0.66928*	-0.4096	0.258023	-0.07714	-0.07401	-0.37037

\*Significant at 5% level of significance \*\* Highly significant at 1% level of significance

**Table 4. Correlation coefficient (r) of different weather parameters with insect pests/predators on toria during Rabi, 2022/23**

Insect pests/ predators	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall	Relative Humidity (%) after (hours)		Wind velocity
	Maximum	Minimum		7	14	
Mustard aphid	-0.19528	-0.63327*	0	-0.09928	-0.12771	0.573889
Whitefly	-0.21876	-0.42298	0	0.050827	-0.08357	0.629266*
Painted bug	-0.29252	-0.64774*	0	0.044286	-0.13405	0.630329*
Mustard sawfly	-0.11928	-0.16236	0	0.053038	-0.0842	0.37711
Flea beetle	-0.24274	-0.5584	0	-0.05518	-0.12525	0.655065*
Leaf Webber	-0.20311	-0.45288	0	0.208612	-0.2246	0.325065
Diamondback moth	0.033427	-0.42052	0	0.002097	0.086534	0.481738
Coccinellid	-0.56536	-0.66065*	0	-0.21439	-0.29433	0.45103
Syrphid fly	-0.53901	-0.58786	0	-0.39273	-0.41366	0.42477
Spider	-0.51916	-0.35057	0	-0.08579	-0.34291	0.053812

\*Significant at 5% level of significance \*\* Highly significant at 1% level of significance

predator during Rabi of 2021/22 was 5.34 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup> at 3<sup>rd</sup> SMW (siliqua harvest stage). In Rabi of 2022/23, the predator population was highest at 1<sup>st</sup> SMW (5.11 grubs+adults plant<sup>-1</sup>). The observation was much identical to Shaila *et al.* [17], who reported that the activity of coccinellids initiated from 1<sup>st</sup> week of January (0.22 beetle plant<sup>-1</sup>) and reached its peak (1.20 beetle plant<sup>-1</sup>) in 2<sup>nd</sup> SMW.

### 3.1.11 Syrphid fly

The syrphid fly appeared during 45<sup>th</sup> SMW (1.01 maggots plant<sup>-1</sup>), *i.e.*, flowering stage and

population was higher (2.09 maggots plant<sup>-1</sup>) at 2<sup>nd</sup> SMW of Rabi of 2021/22. Similarly, peak population of maggots in the next observed season (Rabi of 2022/23) was 2.08 per plant. These results are supported by Mishra *et al.* [20], who stated that the predator appeared in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January and its peak population was (13 larvae 5 plants<sup>-1</sup>) during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of January.

### 3.1.12 Spider

In Rabi of 2021/22, the spider appeared during 45<sup>th</sup> SMW (0.08 spider plant<sup>-1</sup>), and population was highest (0.37 spider plant<sup>-1</sup>) at 3<sup>rd</sup> SMW *i.e.*,

siliqua harvest stage. In successive session (*Rabi* of 2022/23) same trend of pest population was observed.

### 3.2 Correlation of Insect-pest and Predator Population with Weather Parameters during *Rabi* of 2021/22 and 2022/23

The results from the correlation of insect pest density with various weather parameters in *Rabi* of 2021/22 (Table 3) concluded that positive correlation was established by maximum temperature (for whitefly, mustard sawfly, and tobacco caterpillar), rainfall (for painted bug, leaf Webber, diamondback moth, Bihar hairy caterpillar), wind velocity (for all insect pest), RH% at 14 hours (for mustard sawfly, flea beetle and tobacco caterpillar). However, there was a negative effect on the abundance of various insect pests by maximum temperature (for mustard aphid, painted bug, flea beetle, leaf Webber, diamondback moth, Bihar hairy caterpillar), minimum temperature (for all insect pests), rainfall (for mustard aphid, whitefly, mustard sawfly, flea beetle and tobacco caterpillar), RH% at 7 hours (for all insect pests) and RH% at 14 hours (mustard aphid, whitefly, painted bug, mustard sawfly, leaf Webber, diamondback moth and Bihar hairy caterpillar).

The correlation of natural enemies with various weather parameters concluded that maximum temperature, minimum temperature, RH% at 7 hours, RH% at 14 hours and wind velocity negatively influenced the mean population however, rainfall had a positive effect on the natural enemies' population.

The relations between insect pest population and weather parameters in *Rabi* of 2022/23 (Table 4) showed positive correlation with maximum temperature (diamondback moth), wind velocity (all pests), and RH% at 7 hours (whitefly, painted bug, mustard sawfly, leaf Webber, diamondback moth). Conversely, negative correlations were found with maximum temperature (mustard aphid, whitefly, painted bug, mustard, flea beetle, leaf Webber), minimum temperature (all pests), rainfall, RH% at 14 hours (mustard aphid, whitefly, painted bug, mustard sawfly, flea beetle, leaf Webber) and no significant relationship with rainfall.

For natural enemies, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, RH% at 7 hours, RH% at 14 hours, and wind velocity had negative effects on their population, while rainfall had a positive influence on the same. These results are in agreement with the findings of Patel *et al.* [21], Divya *et al.* [13], Lal *et al.* [22], Patel *et al.* [23], Kashyap *et al.* [18], and Mishra *et al.* [20].

## 4. CONCLUSION

From the present study it can be concluded that the period between the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November to last week of December of 2021 and 2022 of the cropping seasons, was the most suitable period for abundance of almost all the major insect pests of toria. Whereas, in the prevailing condition of weather parameters *viz.*, maximum temperature, minimum temperature and RH at 7 hours and 14 hours, the pest density can be declined to much extent.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the Head of the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, the Dean of College of Horticulture, OUAT, Chiplima for providing necessary facilities to carry out the research work and the agrometeorology scientists of regional research and technology transfer station (RRTTS), Chiplima, Odisha for the weather data.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

## REFERENCES

1. Olson G. Species crosses within the genus *Brassica*. II. Artificial *Brassica napus* L. *Hereditas*. 1960;46:351-386.
2. Mizushima U, Tsunoda S. A plant exploration in *Brassica* and Allied Genera. *Tohoku Journal of Agricultural Research*. 1967;17:249-276.
3. Vabilov NI. Studies on the origin of cultivated plants. Leningrad: Institute of Applied Botany and Plant Breeding. 1926;78.



4. Kumar A, Chauhan JS. Status and future thrust areas of rapeseed- mustard research in India. Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences. 2005;75(10):621-635.
5. Bakhietia RC, Sekhon BS. Insect pests and their management in rapeseed mustard. Journal of Oilseed Research. 1989;6(2): 269-299.
6. Singh K. Preying Propensity of Larvae/ Grubs of Syrphid and Coccinellid Predators on Mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi* (Kalt.) International Journal of Agriculture and Food Science Technology. 2013;4(7):687-694.
7. Butani PG, Bharodia RK. Relation of groundnut aphid population with its natural predator, lady bird beetles. Gujarat Agricultural University Research Journal. 1984;9(2):72-74.
8. Nayak MK. Population dynamics of major insect species of mustard (*Brassica campestris* Sariah) towards weather parameters. Journal of Rural and Agricultural Research. 2001;10(1): 19-21.
9. Mandawi NC, Yadu YK, Rao SS, Dubey VK. Study on the seasonal incidence of mustard aphid (*Lipaphis erysimi* Kalt.) in relation to weather parameters. Journal of Plant Development Sciences, 2017;9(8): 1-4.
10. Pradhan PP, Borkakati RN, Saikia DK. Seasonal incidence of insect pests and natural enemies of mustard in relation to meteorological parameters. Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies. 2020; 8:1538-1542.
11. Yadav SP, Singh B, Satyajeet and Kumar, H. Eco-friendly management of aphid (*Lipaphis erysimi* Kalt) in Indian mustard variety RB-50 under late sown conditions. Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies. 2021;9(1):1882- 1886.
12. Syed TS, Muhmmad S, Khanzada MS, Wang S. Population dynamics of thrips, whiteflies, and their natural enemies on mustard (*Brassica campestris* L.) Crop in different localities of Sindh, Pakistan. Journal of entomology and zoology studies. 2015;4(1):7-16.
13. Divya C, Kalasariya, Ravi. and Kanara, H. Seasonal incidence of mustard painted bug, *Bagrada hilaris* (Burmeister) and their correlation with abiotic factors on mustard. Journal of Insect Science. 2015;28(1):92-95.
14. Pradhan PP, Borkakati RN, Saikia DK. Bio efficacy of certain entomopathogenic fungus against major insect pests of *Brassica campestris* var. toria. Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies. 2020; 8(1):840-843.
15. Pal DS, Singh DK, Kumar A, Singh S. Seasonal Incidence of Insect Pests on Rapeseed-Mustard. International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Science. 2020;9(4):2525-2531.
16. Pawar VR, Bapodra JG, Joshi MD, Ghadge SM, Dalve SK. Incidence of leaf Webber, *Crocidolomia binotalis* (Zeller) on mustard. International Journal of Plant Protection. 2010;3(1):130-131.
17. Shaila O, Ramesh S, Reddy SS, Laxmi KV, Sujatha M, Raju CD. Seasonal incidence of various insect pests in mustard crops and their relation with weather factors. The Pharma Innovation Journal. 2022;11(3): 612-616.
18. Kashyap N, Painkra GP, Painkra KL, Bhagat PK. Insect Pests' Succession, Natural Enemies, and their Correlation with Weather Parameters in Mustard Crop. Journal of Plant Development Sciences. 2018;10(10):563-568.
19. Kumar H, Singh S, Yadav A, Kumar M. Seasonal Incidence and Efficacy of Botanical Insecticides Against Painted Bug, *Bagrada hilaris* (Burmeister) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Indian Mustard (*Brassica juncea* Genotype Rh 725). Journal of Applied and Natural Science. 2021;13(4):1518 -1523.
20. Mishra SK, Kanwat PM. Seasonal incidence of mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi* (Kalt) and its major predator on mustard and their correlation with abiotic factors. Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies. 2018;6(3):831-836
21. Patel MR, Patel HN, Khanpara AV, Dabhi MV. Population dynamics of major insect pests, predators, and parasite of aphid on mustard. Indian Journal of Plant Protection. 2014;42:297-299.
22. Lal G, Pal S, Singh DK, Singh, Kumar, A. Seasonal occurrence of insect pests on Mustard and its correlation with abiotic factors. Annals of Plant Protection Sciences. 2014;22(2):332-334.

23. Patel S, Singh CP, Yadav SK. Seasonal incidence on mustard flea beetle, *Phyllotreta cruciferae* on *Brassica* species in relation to weather parameters at different dates of sowing. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*. 2017;5: 1247-1250.

---

© 2023 Parija and Biswal; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

*Peer-review history:*

*The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:*  
<https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/107341>