### Red cotton stainer bug on cotton

**Dysdercus cingulatus** Kangambili / *sidagulina mbila* in Kiswahili

#### Red cotton stainer (NBAIR)

#### Prevention
- Remove cotton plants, all debris and ratoon cotton as soon as harvesting is over by September.
- Keep stores of seed cotton and cotton lint clean to avoid pest multiplying.
- Cotton should be grown strictly as an annual crop and not as a perennial crop to break the cycle of the pest.
- Avoid planting cotton near alternative host plants like Baobab tree (main host of cotton stainer).

#### Monitoring
- Stainer bugs are late season pests. They appear when the bolls are ripening.
- An early indication of attack by red cotton stainer is feeding damage on the flower buds and external seed damage.
- Feeding on bolls causes the boll to abort and shed.
- When 10 to 20 colonies of cotton stainer are seen on stems or buds per acre, direct control action might be done. When such colonies are found on bolls, control is too late.

#### Direct Control
- Hand-pick and destroy the bugs in small plots and at the beginning of infestations.
- Use 500 grams of fresh custard apple leaf extract, mix with 12-17 litres of water. Use cooking pot for 2 litres of mixture; boil it until the remaining liquid is about 1 litre. Strain, then dilute with 10-15 litres of water. Fill the sprayer. Spray on the infested plants thoroughly.

#### Restrictions
- Not WHO classified, but considered unlikely acute hazardous in normal use. Note that synthetic pyrethroids are toxic, and of class II. pre-harvest interval p.h.i. 1 d. restricted re-entry interval r.e.i. 1/2 d.
- WHO toxicity class II (moderately acute hazardous); contact & ingestive group of insecticide, pre-harvest interval p.h.i.10 days. restricted re-entry interval r.e.i. 3 days; Toxic to fish & bees. Spray max twice per season at min 30 day interval.
- WHO class II (moderately acute hazardous); contact insecticide, p.h.i. min 1 month. r.e.i. 1 d, toxic to aquatic organism; Spray max twice per cropping season with minimum 30 day interval. Pyrethroid pesticides do not work well above 25 C.

#### Tanzania

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**PEST MANAGEMENT DECISION GUIDE: GREEN AND YELLOW LIST**

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