

Rice Bug

Recognize the problem

This pest causes the most damage during the milking stage. Both the nymphs and adults feed on the soft dough (called endosperm) of the rice grain. Depending on the growth stage of the rice grain, the feeding can result in empty grains or small, shriveled, deformed grains with spotty discoloration. The insect also becomes active when the monsoonal rains begin. Warm weather, overcast skies, and frequent drizzles favor its population buildup. The population of the rice bug increases at the end of the rainy season.

Background

Rice bugs are found in all rice environments. They are more common in rainfed and upland rice, and prefer the flowering to milking stages of the rice crop. Adults are active during the early morning and late afternoon. Under bright sunlight, they hide in grassy areas. They are less active during the dry season.

Management

- Remove host plants (weeds) from fields and surrounding areas to prevent the multiplication of rice bugs during fallow periods.
- Spray aromatic (like lemon grass) soap solution to expel the rice bug.
- Use "prahok" (local 'cheese') near the field to attract the rice bug and kill it.
- Maintaining fields with even applications of fertilizer and water encourage rice to grow and develop at the same rate. Planting fields, within a village, at the same time (synchronous planting) also helps reduce rice bug problems.
- Use a mosquito net in the early morning or late afternoon to catch the rice bug; crush and put it in water and spray it onto plants to expel other rice bugs.
- Preserve beneficial insects by spraying less insecticides.
- In case the measures mentioned above failed, use less harmful insecticide by following recommendations of a technical expert.
- Use insecticides such as Fipronil or Abamectin.

Eggs of Rice Bugs (Photo by GDA/JICA 2011)



Rice Bugs Adult. (Photo by GDA/JICA 2011)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Leptocorisa oratorius*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Cambodia



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