

A Preliminary study on Insect Biota associated with "Manilkara Zapota"

Sumayya Mohammed Ali

Asst. Prof.(Ad-hoc)

PG Department of Zoology, MES KVM College Valanchery

ABSTRACT

Manilkara zapota an exotic species was introduced to INDIA in 1898, majority of farmers are not aware of economic quality of all the year crop. Observation revealed major ecological interactions and resource partitioning of more than hundred diverse insects in a span of six months. sapota is infested by more than 23 insect pests. Major pest reported at Gujarat are chicku bud borer *Anarsia achrasella* (Bradely) [Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae], chiku moth or chiku leaf Weber. *Nephoptryx eugraphella* (Ragonot) [Lepidoptera: pyralidae], Morphological Structures such as thorns, spines, and trichomes of the plant act as mechanical defence against herbivores. There is very scanty literature available on management. From study it is revealed that more than three hundred species inhabit the microhabitat and a strong commensalism relationship exist. Economical investment can be raised by pest control and management.