

## I. INTRODUCTION

Several countries are suffering nowadays from production shortage and famine somewhere. This was mainly due to draught which negatively affected plant growth and production. Luckily, date palm (*Phoenix dactylefera*) is one of the most tolerated trees to the adverse environmental conditions and participate the nutrition gap. In addition to the high value of date palm fruits, all parts of the tree are of variable value.

In Egypt, date palm plantations are markedly increased during the recent years, especially in the desert new reclaimed lands. Egypt date palm rank fourth in the date fruit production after Iraq, Algeria and Iran. Date cultivation extends almost 1760 kilometer from the extreme north of the Mediterranean Sea Coast ( Western Coast, Edquo, Rashid, Balteem, Damiatta and North Sinai) to mid-Egypt ( Giza, Qalubia, Noubaria, Cairo/Alexandria and Cairo / Ismailia desert roads and Fayoum) to the extreme south (Aswan governorate and the Oasis of Kharga, Dhakla, Farafra and el-Baharia). Date palm plantation represented by more than 13 million trees producing about one million tons of fresh, semi-dry and dray fruits each year.

On the other side, date palm trees and fruits in Egypt are subjected to variable degrees of infestation with more than 33 insect pests, in addition to 3 mite pests. Some of these insect pests are known to cause serious and economic damage, especially boring insects. Recently, some insect pests changed

their behavior and became economic pests attacking the trees themselves like *Potasia cuprea* which was recorded as a serious pest on date palm trees for the first time. However, studies on the most economically important insect pests threatening date palm fruits and trees in Egypt are few and scattered.

**Accordingly, the following aspects were studied:**

- 1- Surveying date palm tree insect and mite pests attacking roots, stem, leaves and fruits on different varieties, in representing localities all the year round (winter, spring, summer and autumn).
- 2- Biological studies on *Ephestia cautella* which is a serious insect pest on fruits in the field and stores.
- 3- Biological studies on *Potasia cuprea* which was recorded for the first time and recently became a serious boring insect pest on trees stem.