

INTRODUCTION

The lepidopterous insects are considered the most polyphagous insect pests in Egypt. They attack more than 70 different field crops including vegetables, fruit trees, ornamental plants, medicinal and aromatic plants, besides weeds and wild plants.

All parts of the plants are subjected to these insects, i.e. cotton leafworm larvae cause serious damage to the foliage, squares, flowers as well as green bolls. Moreover, the Black cutworm, Agrotis ipsilon causes serious damage to different parts of plants beside cutting of the stems under ground causing death of seedlings. It is worthy to mention that the variation in the extent of damage depends on the population density of the insect pest prevailing during the period of infestation in different localities and seasons.

In Egypt, changing of environment is not drastic enough to play an important role in the size of the infestation. The activity of the Biotic factors is mostly stable so the level of infestation throughout the season to another and/or from one region to another is not subjected to great variations, particularly in the last few years.