

B.Sc (Agriculture) – VII Sem.

Sub – **Non-Insect Pests, Pests of Farm Animals and Plant Disease Vectors**

Sub. Code- BSCAG-416

**D+1+2**

### **Introduction of insect pest:**

**Pests** are small creatures, organisms that are notorious of destroying crops, food, causing diseases, and attacking livestock. **Insects** are also small creatures that can be classified into **insect pests** and beneficial **insects**

### **What is an insect?**

Historically, insects have existed millions of years prior to the emergence of human population. They have a significant role played on the ecosystem and one of the roles is to keep pests under control. Also, they fall under the family of arthropods. Some insects can be classified as pests due to their behaviors comparable to pests while others are classified as beneficial insects. Beneficial insects help farmers and gardeners with pollination where they can spread the seeds of flowers to other species to reproduce. In the absence of these beneficial insects such as the bees, gardeners would have to pollinate plants manually, which is of course a time consuming and an expensive method.

The insect is identified by its structure. Usually, insects are divided into the head, the thorax and the abdomen. They have a pair of antennae, six legs, and two pairs of wings although ants and flies are an exception in this description of wings. Examples of beneficial insects include honey bees, wasps, stink bugs, ladybugs and spiders.

Generally, insects can live under adverse environmental conditions hence they are found in almost all parts of the world.

## **Difference between Pest and Insect**

Insect and pest infestation can be a nuisance in households or gardens. There are, however, some beneficial insects that play a significant role in the ecosystem. They can stabilize the ecosystem and keep pests in control. On the other hand, pests are harmful to crops and to human beings. While these creatures share some similarities, they are often confused where people regard insects as pests, and vice versa. This article highlights the key difference between insects and pests.

### **What is an insect?**

Historically, insects have existed millions of years prior to the emergence of human population. They have a significant role played on the ecosystem and one of the roles is to keep pests under control. Also, they fall under the family of arthropods. Some insects can be classified as pests due to their behaviors comparable to pets while others are classified as beneficial insects. Beneficial insects help farmers and gardeners with pollination where they can spread the seeds of flowers to other species to reproduce. In the absence of these beneficial insects such as the bees, gardeners would have to pollinate plants manually, which is of course a time consuming and an expensive method.

The insect is identified by its structure. Usually, insects are divided into the head, the thorax and the abdomen. They have a pair of antennae, six legs, and two pairs of wings although ants and flies are an exception in this description of wings.

Insects include honey bees, wasps, stink bugs, ladybugs and spiders. Generally, insects can live under adverse environmental conditions hence they are found in almost all parts of the world.

An infestation of insects is chemically controlled by using insecticides. Meanwhile, insect pests can be controlled by other insects of parasitic or predatory nature. For example, the coccinellidae and carabidae predatory groups and the hymenoptera parasitic group are used to control insects that are also pests. Entomology, a branch of Zoology, entails the study of insects and it has uncovered these characteristics of insects.

### **What is a pest?**

A pest is a small destructive organism that usually attack crops, animals and food. Common examples of pests include cockroaches, mites, ticks, mosquitoes, bed bugs, lice, nematodes, plants, birds, thrips, and termites. In a farm or garden, pests can hinder the production of crops by destroying them and then lead to an economic loss. Farmers resort to potent pesticides to control pest infestations to keep them in control. However, potent chemical substances can be harmful to the air and to human health when they get absorbed into the crops.

Alternatively, farmers are advised to opt for the natural pest control measures which include biological pest control, traps and cultural practices. Pests are not only damaging to the crops but can cause diseases in humans or destroy electrical wires.

### **Reference Books:**

1. *Y.K Mathur and K.D Upadhya (2012), Crops Pests and Management.*
2. *K.R Nair, Integrated production and pest Management*