

## ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY OF TYPHLOCYBINE LEAFHOPPERS ON VEGETABLE PLANTS IN PAKISTAN

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A brief survey of typhlocybine leafhoppers affecting vegetable plants was made in Pakistan. The results of 1493 samples collected indicated that nearly 39 species of leafhoppers infested 37 species of vegetable plants. Of these the plants observed seriously affected were potato, pumpkin, spinach, carrot, bitter gourd, brinjal, chillies, okra, turnip, tomato and sugarbeet. Emerging out as the most important species in these studies were *Empoasca punjabensis* which affected 35 out of 37 plants species of vegetable plants.

### INTRODUCTION

Vegetable plants are known to be preferred hosts of typhlocybine leafhoppers all over the world. In Pakistan however no satisfactory information was available apart from a few studies of Ahmed [1], Ahmed *et al.* [2] and Pruthi [4]. A brief survey was, therefore, conducted in the country for the first time, which showed a large number of typhlocybine species feeding on these plants. In addition to collecting as many species as could be possible, every plant species was separately sampled with the help of a hand-operated sweep net, of which 25 sweeps on a plant constituted one standard sample. Data of leafhoppers collected in 1493 such samples has been presented in the Tables 1 and 2.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in the Tables indicates that most of the vegetable plants are affected by more than one, and in some cases by a large number of species of typhlocybine leafhoppers. There were e.g. 15 species on pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*) 12 on potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), 10 on spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), 9 on carrot (*Daucus carota*), 7 on each of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*), and chillies (*Capsicum annum*), 6 on each of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), and brinjal (*Solanum melongena*), 5 on each of raddish (*Rhaphanus sativus*), turnip (*Brassica napus*), sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*), and coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*). Vegetable plants like luffa (*Luffa cylindrica*), okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), pea (*Lathyrus*

*odoratus*), tobacco (*Nicotiana tabaccum*), water gourd (*Benincasa hispida*), white gourd (*Praecitrullus fistulosus*), cluster bean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*), mint (*Mentha piperata*), and sesame (*Sesamum indicum*) though not affected by a large number of species, nevertheless harboured 1-4 leafhopper species each. Vegetable plants like onion, garlic, cabbage, and cauliflower, did not appear to be suffering from any serious attack of leafhoppers, and species collected on them appeared only chance catches.

Of the 39 species of typhlocybines studied in the present survey, *Empoasca punjabensis* turned out to be the commonest and most widespread, as it was recorded all over Pakistan, and on 35 out of 39 species of vegetable plants studied. A similar situation existed with *E. punjabensis* on fruit plants in Pakistan as reported by Ahmed *et al.* [2,3]. *Amrasca devastans* is also fairly common and has been collected on 18 plants species. *Empoasca syedi* was collected on 14 species on vegetables, in N.W.F.P. only, and *Empoasca kerri* on 7 plant species in Punjab, Sind and N.W.F.P. The present survey revealed that the leafhoppers affecting vegetable plants belonged mostly to the tribe Empoascini, and were general feeders rather than host specific.

Although the total number of samples of leafhoppers collected appears fairly reasonable, but their plant-wise and region-wise number varies considerably due to the relative abundance, and varieties of vegetable plants grown in different regions of the country. It is, however, quite satisfactorily shown that most of our vegetable plants are under heavy attack of a large number of typhlocybine species. A brief discussion of important infestations is given

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Table 1a. No. of adult typhlocybine leafhoppers collected on vegetable plants in Pakistan

Leafhopper species	Host and food plants (No. of leafhoppers collected)																							Total						
	Bauhinia	Bitter gourd	Brinjal	Cabbage	Carrot	Cauliflower	Chillies	Cholai	Coriander	Cowpea	Cucumber	French beans	Kulfa	Long cucumber	Luffa	Okra	Onion	Pea	Potato	Pumpkin	Raddish	Salad	Spinach		Tobacco	Turnip	Water gourd	White gourd	Tomato	
In Punjab																														
<i>Zygina binotata</i>	306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306
<i>Empoasca punjabensis</i>	-	2170	825	11	139	10	1143	274	432	77	541	456	26	2788	1730	222	-	50	1686	6562	123	140	1312	2680	51	1301	1470	737	26956	
<i>Empoasca kerri</i>	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
<i>Zyginidia quyumi</i>	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Empoasca decipiens</i>	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
<i>Empoasca solanifolia</i>	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
<i>Amrasca devastans</i>	-	-	7640	-	32	-	24	-	3	-	-	-	13	-	36	4400	30	-	53	97	30	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	12368
<i>Empoasca jabbari</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
<i>Empoasca minor</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
<i>Austroasca ghaziensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total samples	4	129	82	2	22	1	38	1	21	5	40	8	2	121	64	59	12	5	82	237	21	15	59	75	9	29	32	62	1237	
Total leafhoppers	306	2196	8512	11	171	10	1167	274	435	77	541	456	39	2788	1766	4622	30	55	1739	6691	153	140	1322	2681	51	1301	1470	737	39741	

Table 1b

Leafhopper species	Host and food plants (Number of leafhoppers collected)																	Total			
	Bauhinia	Bitter gourd	Brinjal	Cabbage	Carrot	Chillies	Cluster bean	Coriander	Luffa	Mint	Okra	Onion	Potato	Pumpkin	Raddish	Sesame	Spinach		Sweat potato	Tomato	
In Sind																					
<i>Empoasca sindhensis</i>	—	19	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
<i>Zygina sindhensis</i>	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	16
<i>Amrasca devastans</i>	—	1	108	—	18	3	—	—	—	—	118	—	72	20	—	—	—	14	70	—	424
<i>Empoasca bostanensis</i>	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
<i>Empoasca kerri</i>	—	—	—	—	30	—	117	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	8	—	1	—	163
<i>Empoasca mardanensis</i>	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
<i>Empoasca punjabensis</i>	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	37	6	—	1	5	5	1	182	32	—	12	—	291
<i>Austroasca jamkandensis</i>	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
<i>Empoasca sesamae</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	48
<i>Empoasca cyamopsae</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	13
<i>Austroasca tuberosa</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Austroasca viniferae</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
<i>Empoasca masoodi</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	10
<i>Empoasca syedi</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	12
<i>Zygina binotata</i>	240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	240
Total samples	1	4	7	1	10	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	6	3	2	4	10	1	3	—	63
Total leafhoppers	240	21	108	1	78	10	130	3	37	6	118	1	106	27	8	230	69	14	83	—	1290

below.

**Sugar Beet.** It was observed largely affected by leafhoppers in Baluchistan and N.W.F.P. Of the five typhlocybinae species collected, *Empoasca punjabensis* and *Empoasca syedi* were the most abundant. Both the species were recorded breeding on the plant.

**Bitter Gourd.** It is grown all over Pakistan, but suffered from leafhopper attack in Punjab, Sind and N.W.F.P. Of the seven species collected on it, *Empoasca punjabensis*

was the most abundant. To a lesser extent *Empoasca kerri* was also collected on it. *E. punjabensis* also breeds on the plant.

**Brinjal.** It was the most heavily infested plant by typhlocybines, almost all over the country. Of the six species recorded on it, *Amrasca devastans* was the most abundant. *Empoasca punjabensis* was also collected quite commonly on it in Punjab. *A. devastans* freely breeds on the plant.

Table 1c

Leafhopper species	Host and food plants (Number of leafhoppers collected)																	Total			
	Sugar beet	Bitter gourd	Bottle gourd	Brinjal	Chillies	Coriander	Cucumber	Garlic	Kulfa	Frenu-greck	Mint	Okra	Pea	Potato	Pumpkin	Raddish	Salad		Spinach	Water gourd	Tomato
In N.W.F.P.																					
<i>Empoasca punjabensis</i>	150	59	67	73	18	—	—	—	24	—	16	100	—	2	161	—	15	25	—	64	774
<i>Empoasca syedi</i>	191	4	—	147	1	—	15	1	—	—	—	162	—	51	224	—	16	50	3	49	914
<i>Empoasca kerri</i>	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
<i>Erythroneura nagpurensis</i>	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Amrasca devastans</i>	—	—	—	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	165
<i>Zyginidia quyumi</i>	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
<i>Byphlocyta spinosa</i>	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
<i>Empoasca capsicae</i>	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	9
<i>Empoasca planata</i>	—	—	—	—	—	84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84
<i>Zyginidia behrinensis</i>	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
<i>Empoanara ghulami</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Erythroneura hazarensis</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
<i>Empoasca khaliqei</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	18	22	6	—	—	—	—	85
<i>Eupteryx tuberculata</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
<i>Zyginidia bindrai</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	—	—	—	—	—	9	68
<i>Empoasca apodema</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	18
<i>Zygina haripurensis</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Zyginidia sawaii</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2

(Table 1c continued)

<i>Empoasca mardanensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	5	-	39	64	
<i>Erythroneura vinealis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Total samples	2	6	1	8	5	2	1	1	4	1	4	13	1	8	19	1	2	7	1	10	97
Total leafhoppers	341	113	67	272	31	88	15	1	25	11	23	432	1	128	456	6	31	80	3	161	2285

	Sugar beet	Brinjal	Carrot	Chillies	Coriander	French beans	Luffa	Frenugreek	Mint	Mustard	Okra	Pea	Potato	Pumpkin	Raddish	Spinach	Turnip	Water gourd	Tomato	Total	
In Baluchistan																					
<i>Empoasca punjabensis</i>	1394	45	1900	1020	497	40	15	168	105	169	98	-	2003	8	1559	1798	2340	10	712	13881	
<i>Empoasca bostanensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	
<i>Empoasca persicae</i>	-	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149	4	-	36	-	-	-	326	
<i>Empoasca masoodi</i>	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	32	
<i>Empoasca planata</i>	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	
<i>Typhlocyba quettensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	4	-	23	
<i>Zyginidia quyumi</i>	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	4	-	-	22	
<i>Amrasca devastans</i>	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	-	-	23	
<i>Amrasca elongata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
<i>Zyginidia haripurensis</i>	9	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	
<i>Zyginidia sawaii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	
<i>Empoasca tabaci</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	
Total samples	10	1	8	10	4	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	4	3	8	11	16	2	9	96	
Total leafhoppers	1440	45	2042	1020	497	40	27	168	111	169	98	1	2227	14	1568	1844	2396	14	712	14433	

**Carrot.** It was observed most heavily infested in Baluchistan, and to a lesser extent in Punjab and Sind. Of the nine typhlocybines collected, *Empoasca punjabensis* was most abundant on the plant in general. Nymphs of the species were also collected on it.

**Chillies.** It was observed very heavily infested by leafhoppers in Punjab and Baluchistan. Of the seven species

of typhlocybines collected on chillies, *Empoasca punjabensis* was the most abundant. Occasionally specimens of *Amrasca devastans* were also recorded occurring in mixed populations with *E. punjabensis*, which also breeds on the plant.

**Okra.** The plant was very seriously infested by typhlocybines almost all over Pakistan. Of the five species collec-

Table 2. Summarised table of leafhopper abundance on vegetable plants in Pakistan

	Punjab			Sind			N.W.F.P.			Baluchistan			Total		
	Samples collected	Total leafhoppers	No. of species	Samples collected	Total leafhoppers	No. of species	Samples collected	Total leafhoppers	No. of species	Samples collected	Total leafhoppers	No. of species	Samples collected	Total leafhoppers	No. of species
Bauhinia	4	306	1	1	240	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	546	1
Sugar beet	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	341	2	10	1440	4	12	1781	5
Bitter-gourd	129	2196	3	4	21	3	6	113	4	—	—	—	139	2330	7
Bottle gourd	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	67	1	—	—	—	1	67	1
Brinjal	82	8512	5	7	108	1	8	272	3	1	45	1	92	8937	6
Cabbage	2	11	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	12	2
Carrot	22	171	2	10	78	7	—	—	—	8	2042	3	40	2291	9
Cauli-flower	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	1
Chillies	38	1167	2	2	10	2	5	31	5	10	1020	1	55	2228	7
Cholai	1	274	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	274	1
Cluster-beans	—	—	—	4	130	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	130	3
Coriander	21	435	2	1	3	1	2	88	2	4	497	1	28	1023	5
Cowpea	5	77	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	77	1
Cucumber	40	541	1	—	—	—	1	15	1	—	—	—	41	556	2
French-beans	8	456	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	1	9	496	1
Garlic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
Kulfa	2	39	2	—	—	—	4	25	2	—	—	—	6	64	3
Long-cucumber	121	2788	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	2788	1
Luffa	64	1766	2	1	37	1	—	—	—	3	27	3	68	1830	4
Frenugreck	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	1	1	168	1	2	179	2
Mint	—	—	—	1	6	1	4	23	3	2	111	2	7	140	4
Mustard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	169	1	1	169	1
Okra	59	4622	2	1	118	1	13	432	5	1	98	1	74	5270	5
Onion	12	30	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	31	2
Pea	5	55	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	57	4
Potato	82	1739	2	6	106	4	8	128	6	4	2227	4	100	4200	12
Pumpkin	237	6691	5	3	27	3	19	456	9	3	14	3	262	7188	15
Raddish	21	153	2	2	8	2	1	6	1	8	1568	2	32	1735	5
Salad	15	140	1	—	—	—	2	31	2	—	—	—	11	171	2
Sesame	—	—	—	4	230	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	230	3
Spinach	59	1322	2	10	69	6	7	80	3	11	1844	4	87	3315	10
Sweet-potato	—	—	—	1	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	1
Tobacco	75	2681	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	2681	2
Turnip	9	51	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	2396	5	25	2447	5
Water gourd	29	1301	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	14	2	31	1315	3
White gourd	32	1470	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	33	1473	2
Tomato	62	737	1	3	83	3	10	161	4	9	712	1	84	1693	6
Total	1237	39741	10	63	1290	16	97	2285	20	96	14433	12	1495	57749	39

ted on it, *Amrasca devastans* far outnumbered any other typhlocybinae. The other less abundant species was *Empoasca punjabensis*. Both *A. devastans* and *E. punjabensis* breed on the plant all over Pakistan.

**Potato.** Potato plants were observed seriously infested by leafhoppers in Punjab and Baluchistan, and to a lesser extent in Sind and N.W.F.P. Of the twelve species collected on it, *E. punjabensis*, and *A. devastans* were the most abundant. Both the species freely breed on the host.

**Pumpkin.** Pumpkin plants were extensively infested

by leafhoppers in Punjab, and to a lesser extent in other provinces of the country. Of the fifteen species of typhlocybinae collected on the plant, *E. punjabensis* was the most abundant, and also breeds on it. *A. devastans* and *E. syedi* were also recorded, but in smaller numbers on the plant.

Apart from the plants discussed above, cholai, coriander, cowpea, cucumber, French beans, kulfa, long cucumber, luffa, mint, mustard, spinach, tobacco, water gourd, and white gourd were all observed heavily infested by

*E. punjabensis* in Punjab, and most of them by the same species in Baluchistan. The leafhopper infestations in Sind, and N.W.F.P. remained usually at a low level during the period of study. Whereas leafhopper species like, *E. punjabensis* and *A. devastans* were the most abundant, being approximately 70% and 22% respectively of the total typhlocybinae catches on vegetable plants. The species like *Zyginidia quyumi*, *Austroasca ghaziensis*, in Punjab, *Empoasca bostanensis*, *Empoasca mardanensis*, *Austroasca tuberosa*, and *Austroasca viniferae* in Sind, *Byphlocyta spinosa*, *Empoanara ghylami*, *Eupteryx tuberculata*, *Zygina haripurensis*, *Zyginidia sawaii*, and *Erythroneura vinealis* in N.W.F.P. and *Empoasca bostanensis*, and *Amrasca*

*elongata* in Baluchistan appeared to be only chance captures on vegetable plants.

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MATERIAL AND METHOD

In case of random sampling and for the purpose of studying the feeding of leafhoppers, leaves were collected from the plants of vegetable crops at different levels of infestation. The leaves were divided into two groups, one for the purpose of studying the feeding of leafhoppers and the other for the purpose of studying the abundance and diversity of leafhoppers. The leaves were divided into two groups, one for the purpose of studying the feeding of leafhoppers and the other for the purpose of studying the abundance and diversity of leafhoppers. The leaves were divided into two groups, one for the purpose of studying the feeding of leafhoppers and the other for the purpose of studying the abundance and diversity of leafhoppers.

DISCUSSION

The leafhopper species which were most abundant in Punjab, Sind, and N.W.F.P. were *E. punjabensis* and *A. devastans*. The abundance of these species was high in Punjab and Sind, and low in N.W.F.P. The abundance of these species was high in Punjab and Sind, and low in N.W.F.P. The abundance of these species was high in Punjab and Sind, and low in N.W.F.P.

INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that various species of leafhoppers are found on different parts of the plant. The abundance and diversity of leafhoppers on different parts of the plant varies with the season and the type of plant. The abundance and diversity of leafhoppers on different parts of the plant varies with the season and the type of plant. The abundance and diversity of leafhoppers on different parts of the plant varies with the season and the type of plant.