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ENTOMOLOGY

Status of White Fly, (*Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius) in Vindya Plateau

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ABSTRACT

The white fly Bemisia tabaci (Genn.) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) is a polyphagous insect pest and infested/ harbored on many crops/ trees/ fruits/ vegetables and cause economic damage. The studies were conducted during 2014, 2015 and 2016 using one hundred and twenty three new plant species belonging to twenty four families including forty three crops, sixteen fruits plants, twenty one vegetables, eight flowers, eleven weeds, eighteen trees, two spices and one each from ornamental, aromatic, medicinal and creeper at the College of Agriculture, Ganj Basoda (MP). The research revealed that maximum (35%) host plants were damaged from crops followed by vegetables (17.1%), tree (14.6%) fruit plant (13%), weeds (7.3%), flower (6.5%), and rest of the plant categories *i.e.* Spices, ornamental, aromatic plants, medicinal and creeper were the least preferred by white fly for infestation and multiplication. Maximum (34) host plants were found damaged in fabaceae family followed by cucurbitaceae (14), Malvaceae (8), Solanaceae (8), Moraceae and Euphorbeaceae (6) and Asteraceae and Brassicaceae (5). The rest of the families were found least preferred. The higher per cent of damaged crops was observed in the Fabaceae family (27.6%) followed by cucurbitaceae (11.4%), Poaceae (8.1%), Malvaceae and Solanaceae (6.5%), Asteraceae and Moraceae (4.9%). Infestation was found less than five percentage in rest of the families. The average maximum population intensity i.e. 39 individual/leaf was observed in Malvaceae family followed by Solanaceae (35.7 individual/leaf), Amaranthaceae (28.5 individual / leaf), Solanaceae (35.7 individual/leaf), Caricaceae (28.4 individual/leaf), Cucurbitaceae (23.4 individual/leaf) and Bracicaceae (21.4 individual/ leaf), Compositae (19 individual/leaf), Chenopodiaceae (14.5 individual/leaf), Euphorbiaceae (12.1 individual/leaf), Lamiaceae (11.4 individual/leaf) and Poaceae (10.5 individual/leaf). The rest of families noted less than ten individual per leaf.

Highlights

 The incidence of whitefly was maximum in the fabaceae family followed by Cucurbitaceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae Euphorbicaeae Moraceae, Asteraceae and Bracicaceae for feeding, shelter and oviposition purpose

Keywords: Status, host plant, whitefly, population level,

The white fly *Bemisia tabaci* (*Genn.*) is a polyphagous insect pest and infested/ harbored on many crops/ trees/ fruits/ vegetables etc. It is originated from Asia (Singh *et al.* 1990). *Bemisia spp*, being possibly of the Indian origin (Fishpool and Burban 1994), was described under numerous names before its morphological variability was recognized. It is also distributed throughout the northern, central and the western region of the Indian subcontinent and is a very serious to American cotton particularly in the dry areas. Apart from cotton, it also feeds on various other plants such as cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, toria, melon, potato, brinjal, okara and some other weeds (Atwal and Dhaliwal 2009 and Choudhary and Garg 2002).

The nymphs are yellow - white scales 0.3-0.6 mm long which suck the cell sap, are sluggish creatures,



clustered together on the under surface of the leaves and their pale-yellow bodies make them stand out against the green background (Fig. 2). In the winged stage, they are 1.0-1.5mm long and their yellowish bodies are slightly dusted with a white waxy power. They have two pairs of pure white wings and have prominent long hind wings (Fig. 3). The eggs are pear shaped with a pedicel spike at the base, and is approximately 0.2 mm long (Fig. 1). The puparium is flat, irregular oval shape and 0.7 mm long.



Fig. 1: Eggs of White fly



Fig. 2: Nymph stage of whitefly



Fig. 3: Adult stage of White flies



Fig. 4: Symptom of Whitefly damage on crop

On a smooth leaf the puparium lacks enlarged dorsal setae, but if the leaf is hairy, two to eight long dorsal setae are present and the adult is about 1 mm long. The male is slightly smaller than the female. The body and both the pair of wings are covered with a powdery, waxy secretion, white to slightly yellowish in colour (Atwal and Dhaliwal 2009 and Gupta *et al.* 2005).

Although it is a major insect pest of cotton, soybean, tomato, chilli, brinjal, green gram, black gram and other crops, (Singh et al. 1990; Choudhary and Garg 2002; Gupta et al. 2005 and Atwal and Dhaliwal 2009) it may be getting the status as the major/key insect pest in field crops / vegetables/ ornamentals/forestry/ medicinal plants in the near future due to the intensive cropping system/ closer plantation, higher dosages of fertilizers, low level of organic manure in soil and change in the weather conditions (Fig. 4). Thus, keeping this view in mind investigation was undertaken to check the status of host plant and the population level to help in the framing of suitable management practices such as preventive / curative measures of host plant at the right time to curb easy multiplication / infestation level of the white fly.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The status of the host plants of white fly, *Bemisia tabaci* was noted from Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh and population of this insect was observed during 2014, 2015 and 2016. On the basis of the population of nymphs/adults, the host plants were categorized (Table 1). The Ganj Basoda is 23° 51′ N 78°10E and 410 Meter above the mean sea level. The soil type of this study area is shallow medium black (pH normal). The annual maximum and

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minimum temperatures are 31.82°C and 18.96°C respectively with annual rainfall 1051 mm. The regular observations were taken at fortnight interval on various categories of the host plant (*e.g.* trees, field crops, fruits, vegetables, weeds, flowers, ornamental, spices, creeper and aromatic /medicinal plants etc.). During the study, the whole plant was examined and the population of nymphs and adults were counted and the population per leaf was presented.

Table 1:	Whitefly	population	scoring level	
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51. No.	Incidence levels	Scale	Population density / leaf
1.	Very low	Ι	0-10
2.	Low	II	10-20
3.	Moderate	III	20-30
4.	Severe	IV	30-40
5.	Very severe	V	>40

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One hundred and twenty three new host plants were categorized into five categories. Out of one hundred and twenty-three, maximum fifty seven host plants belong to very low infestation category. The minimum number of host plant *i.e.* six new host plants belong to severe incidence category and eighteen host plant comes under very severe incidence category (Table 2 and Fig. 5). It represents twenty four families together with forty three crops, sixteen fruits plants, twenty one vegetables, eight flowers, eleven weeds, eighteen trees, two spices and one each from ornamental, aromatic , medicinal and creeper (Table 2 and Fig. 6).

The Maximum thirty five percent host plants were found to be damaged from crops followed by vegetables (17.1%), tree (14.6%) fruit plant (13%), weeds (7.3%), flower (6.5%), and rest of the plant categories *i.e.* Spices, ornamental, aromatic plants, medicinal and creeper were least preferred by white fly for infestation and multiplication (Table 2 and Fig. 6).

The maximum thirty four host plants were found to be damaged in the fabaceae family followed by cucurbitaceae (14), Malvaceae (8), Solanaceae (8), Moraceae and Euphorbeaceae (6) and Asteraceae and Brassicaceae (5). The rest of the families were found least preferred (Table 2 and Fig. 7). Utmost per cent of damage was observed in the Fabaceae family (27.6%) followed by cucurbitaceae (11.4%),

Table 2: Host plants status of write fly, <i>Bemistutubuci</i>						
Sl. No.	Common name	Botanical name	Family	Type of host plant	Level of incidence	Population level
1	Green amaranthus	Amaranthus viridis L.	Amaranthaceae	vegetable	III	27.12
2	Spin amaranthus	Amaranthus spinosisL.	Amaranthaceae	vegetable	III	29.89
3	Carrot	Dacus carota	Apiaceae	Vegetable	Ι	5.20
4	Coriander	Coriandrum sativum L.	Apiaceae	Spice	Ι	7.78
5	Safflower	Carthemus tinctorius	Asteraceae	Crop	II	15.42
6	Niger	Gazotia abyssinica L.f.Cass	Asteraceae	Crop	Ι	6.89
7	Sunflower	Helianthus anus	Asteraceae	Crop	III	24.23
8	Marigold	<i>Tagetes</i> spp	Asteraceae	Flower	III	27.48
9	Chrysanthemum	Chrysanthemum morifolium Ramat	Asteraceae	Flower	IV	39.47
10	Mustard	Brassica compestris	Brassicaceae	Crop	II	12.46
11	Toria	Brassica rapa	Brassicaceae	Crop	II	17.48
12	Chandrashoor	Lepidium sativum	Brassicaceae	Medicinal	Ι	4.69
13	Cauliflower	Brassica oleracea var. botrutis	Brassicaceae	Vegetable	IV	38.79
14	Cabbage	Brassica oleracea var. capitata	Brassicaceae	Vegetable	IV	33.39
15	Papaya	Carica Papaya L.	Caricaceae	Fruit	III	28.43
16	Bathua	Chenopodium album	Chenopodiaceae	Weed	Ι	7.49
17	Spinach	Spinacia oleracea	Chenopodiaceae	Vegetable	III	21.47
18	Ragoon creeper	Combretum indicum (L.) DeFilipps	Combretaceae	Creeper	Ι	4.17

Table 2: Host plants status of White fly, Bemisiatabaci

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19	Sunflower	Helianthus annus L.	Compositae	Crop	II	18.15
20	Saffflower	Cartmemus tinctorius L.	Compositae	Crop	II	19.87
21	Bottle gourd	Lagenari siceria	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	26.78
22	Ridged gourd	Luffa acutangula Mill	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	29.14
23	Sponge gourd	Luffa aegyptiaca Mill.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	27.19
24	Bitter gourd	Memordica charantia L.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	II	16.74
25	Pointed gourd	Trisenthus dioca Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	24.12
26	Snake gourd	Trichosanthes cucumerina L.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	23.99
27	Water melon	Citrullus lantus var. lantus (Thrub.) Matsum & Nakai	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	21.86
28	Musk melon	Cucumis melo L.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	29.14
29	Cucumber	Cucumis sativus L.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	27.87
30	Ivy gourd (Kundru)	Coccinia grandis (L.) Viogt	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	II	19.14
31	Summer Squash	Cucurbita pepo L.	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	22.67
32	Round gourd	Praecitrullus fistulosus (Stocks) Panglo	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	26.41
33	Winter squash	Cucurbita maxima	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	III	23.91
34	Spiny gourd (Kakoda)	Momordica dioca Rob. ex Wild	Cucurbitaceae	Vegetable	Ι	8.19
35	Castor	Riciuns communis L.	Euphorbeaceae	Crop	II	16.87
36	Croton plant	Croton spp.	Euphorbiaceae	Ornamental	II	15.49
37	Aonla	Emblica officinalis Geartn.	Euphorbeaceae	Fruit	III	26.79
38	Asthma plant	Euphorbia hirta L.	Euphorbeaceae	Weed	Ι	4.67
39	Large dudhi	Euphorbia macrophylla Lam.	Euphorbiaceae	Weed	Ι	6.47
40	Hazar dana	Phyllenthus spp.	Euphorbiaceae	Weed	Ι	2.12
41	Sisoo	Dalbergia sisoo Roxb.	Fabaceae	Tree	II	11.56
42	Shisham	Dalvergia latifolia	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	6.45
43	Golden shower tree	Cassia fistula L.	Fabaceae	Tree	II	16.42
44	Charota	Cassia tora (L.) Roxb.	Fabaceae	Weed	Ι	2.30
45	YellowSanji	Melilotus indica	Fabaceae	Weed	Ι	2.60
46	White sanji	Melilotus alba	Fabaceae	Weed	Ι	3.90
47	Black siris	Albizia lebbeck (L.)Benth.	Fabaceae	Tree	II	11.23
48	White siris	Albezia procera (L.)Benth.	Fabaceae	Tree	II	12.46
49	Green gram	<i>Vigna radiata</i> L. Wilczek	Fabaceae	Crop	V	79.12
50	Black gram	Vigna mungo L. Hepper	Fabaceae	Crop	V	74.56
51	French bean	Phaseolus vulgeris	Fabaceae	Crop	V	57.13
52	Soybean	<i>Glycine max</i> L. Merrill	Fabaceae	Crop	V	41.29
53	Pigeon pea	Cajanus cajan L. Millsp	Fabaceae	Crop	V	43.85
54	Cow pea	(Vigna unguiculata (L.)Walp	Fabaceae	Crop	V	51.96
55	Faba bean	Vicia faba	Fabaceae	Crop	IV	36.89
56	Fenugreek	Trigonella foenum-graecum	Fabaceae	Spice	V	46.29
57	Garden Pea	Pisum sativum L.	Fabaceae	Crop	V	65.18
58	Field pea	Pisum ravens L.	Fabaceae	Crop	V	59.46
59	Grass pea	Lathyrus sativus L.	Fabaceae	Crop	II	13.19
60	Lucerne	Medicago sativa	Fabaceae	Crop	II	12.45
61	Sunhemp	Crotolarea juncia	Fabaceae	Crop	II	11.67
62	Groundnut	Arachis hypogaea	Fabaceae	Crop	IV	37.13
63	Indian bean	Dolichus lablab L.	Fabaceae	Vegetable	III	26.19
64	Gulmohar	Delonex regia (Boj.)	Fabaceae	Flower	II	14.16

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65	Daincha	Sesbania bispinosa (Jacq.) W. Wight	Fabaceae	Crop	Π	15.95
66	Subabul	Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.)	Fabaceae	Tree	II	12.87
67	Desi Babul	Acacia nilotica (L.)	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	5.11
68	White babul	Acasia leucophola L.	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	3.10
69	Babul	Cassia ceimaL.	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	6.70
70	Pongram	Pongamia pinnata (L.)	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	2.19
71	Palas	Butea monosperma (Lam.)Taub	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	1.31
72	Temrandus	Tamrindus indica L.	Fabaceae	Fruit	Ι	1.87
73	Exotic babul	Prosopis julifielra (SW.) DC.	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	2.01
74	Babul	Cassia ceima L.	Fabaceae	Tree	Ι	4.61
75	Teak	Tectona grandis L.f.	Lamiaceae	Tree	Ι	8.90
76	Khamer	Gmelina arborea Roxb.	Lamiaceae	Tree	Ι	8.99
77	Basil	Ocimim tenuiflorum	Lamiaceae	Aromatic	Ι	1.15
						2.05
78	Linseed	Linum usitatisimum L.	Linaceae	Crop	Ι	8.79
79	Indian Cotton	Gossypium arboretum L.	Malvaceae	Crop	V	41.23
80	American Cotton	Gossypium hirsutum L.	Malvaceae	Crop	V	69.13
81	Levant cotton	Gossypium herbaceum L.	Malvaceae	Crop	V	65.87
82	Egyptian	Gossypium barbadense L.	Malvaceae	Crop	V	59.47
83	Ladies finger	Abolmeschus esculantus L.	Malvaceae	Vegetable	V	57.46
84	Chinarose	Hibiscus rosasinensis L.	Malvaceae	Flower	Ι	2.11
85	Hollyhock	Alacea spp.	Malvaceae	Flower	Ι	3.69
86	Semal	Bombax ceiba L.	Malvaceae	Tree	Ι	1.29
87	Mulbary	<i>Morus alba</i> L.	Moraceae	Fruit	Ι	5.46
88	Jackfruit	Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam.	Moraceae	Fruit	Ι	4.83
89	Banyan tree	Ficus benghalensis L.	Moraceae	Tree	Ι	1.02
90	Pipal	Ficus religiosa L.	Moraceae	Tree	Ι	2.06
91	Fig	Ficus carica L.	Moraceae	Fruit	Ι	5.32
92	Goolar	Ficus racemosa L.	Moraceae	Fruit	Ι	1.62
93	Jasmine	Jasminum officinale L.	Oleaceae	Flower	Ι	2.14
94	Guava	Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae	Fruit	Ι	6.78
95	Jamun	Syzygium cumini (L.)Skeels.	Myrtaceae	Fruit	Ι	8.99
96	Sesame	Sesamum indicum L.	Pedaliaceae	Crop	Ι	8.56
97	Paddy	Orysa sativa L.	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	9.86
98	Sorghum	Sorghum bicolor L. Moench	Poaceae	Crop	II	18.37
99	Maize	Zea mays L.	Poaceae	Crop	II	19.49
100	Pearl millet	Pennisetum typhoides L.	Poaceae	Crop	II	17.63
101	Sugarcane	Saccharum officinarum	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	9.45
102	Baryard Millet	Echinochloa crusgalli	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	8.76
103	Kodo	Paspalum scorbiculatum L.	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	9.41
104	Little Millet (Kutaki)	Panicum sumatrense L.	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	7.69
105	Wheat	Triticum spp.	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	2.78
106	Barley	Hordeum vulgare L.	Poaceae	Crop	Ι	1.47
107	Pomegranate	Punica granatum L.	Punicaceae	Fruit	Ι	6.78
108	Ber	Zizyphus mauritiana Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Fruit	Ι	2.44
109	Wild ber	Zizyphus juguva Mill.	Rhamnaceae	Fruit	Ι	1.66
110	Kaitha	Limonia acidissima L.	Rosaceae	Fruit	Ι	1.78



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111	Rose	Rosa indica L.	Rosaceae	Flower	II	18.57
112	Sweet orange	Citrus sinensis (L.)	Rutaceae	Fruit	Ι	9.74
113	Lime	Citrus aurantifolia Swingle	Rutaceae	Fruit	Ι	8.43
114	Stone apple	Agels marmelos (L.) Correa	Rutaceae	Fruit	Ι	1.96
115	Night blooming jasmine	Cestrum nocturnum L.	Solanaceae	Flower	Ι	2.83
116	Black night shade (Makoy)	Solanum nigrum L.	Solanaceae	Weed	Ι	1.67
117	Tomato	Lycopersicum esculantum	Solanaceae	Crop	V	71.26
118	Potato	Solenum tuberosum	Solanaceae	Crop	IV	38.48
119	Chilli	Capsicum annum	Solanaceae	Crop	V	55.67
120	Chilli	Capsicum frutiscence	Solanaceae	Crop	V	61.29
121	Brinjal	Solenum melongena	Solanaceae	Crop	V	42.97
122	Bhatkatai	Solenum vergianum	Solanaceae	Weed	Ι	1.13
123	Big-sage	Lantana camara L.	Verbenaceae	Weed	Ι	1.47

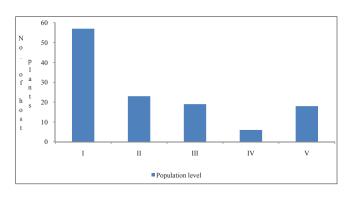


Fig. 5: Population level of white fly

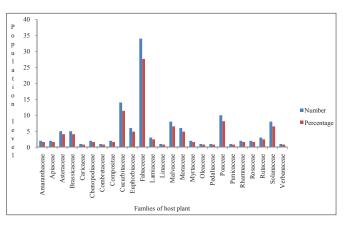


Fig. 7: Number and percentage of host plant family damaged by white fly

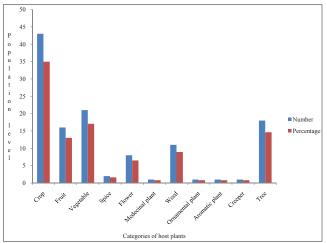


Fig. 6: Number and percentage of Host plant cataegories damage by white fly

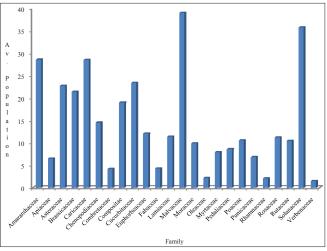


Fig. 8: Familywise average population density of white fly

Poaceae (8.1%), Malvaceae and Solanaceae (6.5%), Asteraceae and Moraceae (4.9%). Infestation was found less than five percentage in rest of the families (Table 2 and Fig. 7).

The average maximum population intensity *i.e.* 39 individual/leaf was observed in the Malvaceae family followed by Solanaceae (35.7 individual/leaf), Amaranthaceae (28.5 individual / leaf), Caricaceae (28.4 individual/leaf), Cucurbitaceae (23.4 individual/leaf) and Bracicaceae (21.4 individual/leaf), Compositae (19 individual/leaf), leaf), Chenopodiaceae (14.5 individual/leaf), Euphorbiaceae (12.1 individual/leaf), Lamiaceae (11.4 individual/leaf) and Poaceae (10.5 individual/leaf). The rest of the families were noted less than ten individual per leaf (Table 2 and Fig. 8).

The result reported by Pimple and Summanwar (1983) are accordance with the present observation and he had found pest infesting about 323 host plants representing 63 families. Singh et al. (1990) and Garg (2014) have advocated that the white fly is a major insect pest of soybean in Madhya Pradesh and it agrees with the present finding. Borad et al. (2002) have reported that white fly infest the brinjal crops and are considered as the major pest, this again supports the present result. Gupta et al. (2005) have noticed that it is a major pest of Malvaceous, Solanaceous, Fabaceous vegetables and Cole crops, this results strongly supports the present observations. The present findings are in line with the result reported by Dharavath et al. (2017) and they have found that the white fly is a major insect pest of brinjal. Garg and Patel (2017) have observed that it is a key pest of black gram in Vindya Plateau of Madhya Pradesh and it is of conformity with the present result.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the present findings that the incidence of whitefly was maximum in the fabaceae family followed by Cucurbitaceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae Euphorbicaeae Moraceae, Asteraceae and Bracicaceae for feeding, shelter and oviposition purpose.

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