Seasonal abundance of chrysopids (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) preying on *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) and *Aphis gossypii* (Glover) (Homoptera: Aphididae) on cotton in eastern Tanzania

Author(s)
J.C.B. Kabissa , H.Y. Kayumbo , J.G. Yarro

Abstract
The occurrence of chrysopids on cotton in relation to *Helicoverpa armigera* and*Aphis gossypii* was studied between 1988 and 1991. By the 8th week after germination predators and their prey were already established on the crop. Among the chrysopid species observed on cotton, only *Mallada desjardinsi* (Navas) and*Chrysoperla* sp. occurred on cotton when both *H. armigera* and *A. gossypii* were present. Chrysopids and *A. gossypii* were most abundant on cotton between the 12th and 15th weeks after germination. However, peak abundance of eggs and larvae of *H. armigera* on cotton occurred earlier between the 8th and 13th weeks. Parasitism in populations of field collected larval, pupal and imaginal chrysopids was noted. Activity of adult *H. armigera* and chrysopids monitored by light traps showed two peaks of abundance coinciding with short and long rains. Prospects of manipulating chrysopids for biological control of *H. armigera* and *A. gossypii* are discussed.

Keywords
Cotton;
chrysopids;
H. armigera;
A. gossypii;
Biocontrol