

## Seasonal incidence of grey pineapple mealybug, *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) in some selected banana plantations of Jaffna District.

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### Abstract

Banana (*Musa* sp.) is the most widely cultivated and consumed fruit in Sri Lanka. *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes* Beardsley is identified as an emerging potential pest which affects mainly on banana and plantain crops in the Jaffna district, Northern Sri Lanka. It is a polyphagous sucking pest poses both direct and indirect damages to the growth and health of plants and affects the marketable quality of fruits. The present study conducted to assess seasonal incidence of this pest in the banana plantations over a period of one year and the findings show a clear seasonal variation in the population of *D. neobrevipes*. During the period of sampling two generations was found and among the climatic factors rainfall affects significantly on the reduction of this species. Temperature positively correlates with the incidence and favours the growth of population. Relating the population fluctuations in relation with the weather parameters is effective for the eco-friendly management practices.

**Key words:** *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*, *Musa* sp. rainfall, seasonal incidence, temperature