STUDY OF TEA PESTS OF TEMI TEA ESTATE, SOUTH SIKKIM, INDIA.

SUBMITTED BY:

SUDARSHAN CHHETRI.

M.Sc. ZOOLOGY, (ENTOMOLOGY).

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Sudarshan Chhetri.

M.Sc. (Entomology).

Batch 2063 - 2064.

Exam Roll No: - 349

Regd.No. 5-3-28-82-2006.

ABSTRACT

Tea is the agricultural product of leaves, leaf buds and internodes of **Camellia** sinensis plant, prepared and cured by various methods. It is a woody perennial plant grown as a monoculture. It provides a stable microclimate and a suitable habitat for number of pests and diseases in different parts of plant in different seasons with different damage pattern and intensity.

A random questionnaire survey and interview was made with the experienced person, TTE officials working at the garden and personal visit and collection resulted 8 species of Arthropod pests and 2 predator species belonging to 8 orders and 16 different families.

A total of 205 species, were collected.125 specimens collected during autumn and 80 during monsoon season. Maximum species belonged from Aphididae, Formicidae and Thripidae families and minimum species from Scarabaeidae and Chrysomelidae families. Hemiptera was found to be the most dominant Order with the value of 0.2683, likewise Coleoptera was found to be recessive Order with the value of 0.0244.

The Species Diversity was 1.662 with the evenness of 0.807 for autumn season and was 1.798 with the evenness of 0.968 for monsoon season, while the Community Dominance was 0.9121.

Out of them, Thrips (**Scirtothrips** sp.), Aphids (**Toxoptera aurantii**) was considered as a major enemy of the tea. It was also reported that tea plant suffered from natural calamity i.e. hailstones affecting the tea production in the fiscal year 2009.

TTE has been graded as Organic Tea Estate, from April 2008 by Institute of Market logy (IMO) of Switzerland, and has been adopting traditional synthetic pesticide, cattle manure, vermin compost as well as Neem based botanicals for the control of the pests. The Estate has been exporting tea overseas. Many European nations and Japan have shown preference for tea produced by adopting organic manuring method. It is suggested to monitor the pests and disease complex regularly and use IPM techniques as far as possible.

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