

## First Report of Fall Army Worm; *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Sugarcane in Sri Lanka

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The first report of the exotic invasive pest, Fall Army Worm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Sri Lankan sugarcane plantations is reported in this paper. The first record of FAW attack on sugarcane in Sri Lanka was reported in a sugarcane field in Habaraluwewa zone at Sevanagala (6° 23'N, 80° 55'E). Subsequent attacks of FAW were recorded in some sugarcane fields at Uda Walawe (6° 27'N, 80° 52'E), Pelwatte (6° 45'N, 81° 14'E), Siyambalanduwa (6° 54'N, 81° 33'E), Hingurana (7° 13'N, 81° 39'E) and Kantale (8° 22'N, 81° 1'E). This study was conducted to collect information on the nature of damage FAW had on sugarcane plants, biology of FAW on sugarcane, occurrence of FAW in different sugarcane growing areas and to identify natural enemies of FAW from December 2018 to May 2019. Meristem damage or dead hearts were not observed in FAW attacked sugarcane plants and affected plants did not show symptoms of withering or drying. Leaves of infested plants showed skeletonization, irregular holes or windows on the lamina and margin feeding symptoms in both mother shoots and tillers. In some plants, nibbling and shearing off of the central shoot was also observed by fully grown larvae. In severely affected sugarcane plants, large quantities of fresh frass pellets could be seen in the whorl with mature larva visible or hidden in the whorl. Larval period of FAW on sugarcane was about 16-23 days and adults lived for 6 to 9 days. Infestations of FAW were observed in all the sugarcane growing areas of the country with different infestation levels. Two species of egg parasitoids; *Telenomus* sp. (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) and *Trichogramma* sp. (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) and one predator species; Larvae of *Micraspis allardi* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) were identified as natural enemies of FAW in sugarcane in Sri Lanka.

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