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**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
NEOTROPICAL CORNSTALK BORER,
DIATRAEA LINEOLATA (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

A bibliographic revision of the neotropical cornstalk borer (NCB), *Diatraea lineolata* (Walker) is presented. The bibliographical entries include information on distribution, taxonomy, host plants, biology, damage, and control of the NCB. However, only a few references cited include substantial and complete information on the NCB. Most of the citations include brief local observations and preliminary information on this species.

The NCB has been poorly studied in spite of its wide distribution and importance as a pest of corn in the neotropical region.

RESUMEN

Se presenta una revisión bibliográfica sobre el barrenador neotropical del maíz (BNM), *Diatraea lineolata* (Walker). Las citas bibliográficas incluyen información sobre su distribución, taxonomía, plantas hospederas, biología, daños y control. Sin embargo, pocas referencias presentan información substancial y completa sobre el BNM; la mayoría de los reportes incluyen breves observaciones locales e información preliminar sobre este insecto. El BNM no se ha estudiado adecuadamente a pesar de su amplia distribución e importancia como plaga del maíz en la región neotropical.

The most economically important species of the genus *Diatraea* Guilding are *saccharalis* (Fabricius), *grandiosella* Dyar, and *lineolata* (Walker) because of their wide distribution and injury to graminaceous crops, principally sugar cane, *Saccharum officinarum* L., corn, *Zea mays* L., and sorghum, *Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench. Morrison et al. (1977) and Chippendale et al. (1985) prepared a bibliography for *D. grandiosella*, and Roe et al. (1981) for *D. saccharalis*, however, no attempt has been made to locate, summarize, and interpret the literature on *D. lineolata*.

The neotropical cornstalk borer (NCB), *D. lineolata*, described from Venezuela by Walker (1856), is after *D. saccharalis*, the most widely distributed species of *Diatraea*. It occurs in the Bahamas, Cuba, Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad, Mexico, Central America and most of equatorial South America north of the Amazon River (Box 1950c). Within the continental United States, it only occurs in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas (Anonymous 1966a).

The host plants of *D. lineolata* are more limited than *D. saccharalis*, but similar to *D. grandiosella*. The larva is a destructive borer of corn, and is classified as a "domestic" species since no true wild-grass host is known (Myers 1935b, Box 1951b). The NCB also has been reported from teosinte, *Euchlaena mexicana* Schrad., Guatemala grass, *Trip-sacum laxum*, wheat, *Triticum aestivum* L., sorghum, very rarely from sugar cane (Box 1950a, 1950c, 1951b), johnsongrass, *Sorghum halepense* (L.) (Van Leerdam 1981), and rice, *Oryza sativa* L. (Angeles et al. 1960). Damage to corn includes defoliation, interference to the vascular system by tunnelling in the stalk, lodging due to stalk weakening, and damage to the ear (Overman 1970).

Despite its wide distribution, the biology and ecology of *D. lineolata* have been studied only in Trinidad (Hynes 1942, Kevan 1943, 1944), and Nicaragua (van Huis 1981). Some preliminary studies were conducted in Venezuela (Box 1950a) and Guatemala (Painter 1955). Oviposition by NCB occurs primarily on the upper leaves of corn (Kevan 1944) at late whorl and tasseling (van Huis 1981). The average egg mass size observed in the field is two (Overman 1970, van Huis 1981) although this number is increased greatly under laboratory conditions (Kevan 1944, van Huis 1981). In Trinidad, the duration from egg to adult was seven to nine weeks with six to eight instars (Kevan 1943). A larval aestivation occurs during the dry season with pupation commencing at the onset of rain. The diapausing larva is characterized by the change from a spotted to an immaculate morph (Hynes 1942, Kevan 1943, 1944, van Huis 1981). Aestivation provides the species with a mechanism for survival during dry, host plant-free periods (Kevan 1944).

Studies on suppression methods for NCB are limited, although some natural enemies (parasites) and host plant resistance studies have been reported (Pears & Saunders 1980). Van Huis (1981) reported a complete integrated pest management study on corn, including *D. lineolata*, in Nicaragua.

Taxonomic confusion of NCB in the early literature led to several erroneous reports (Box 1935b, 1949). Published references to *D. lineolata* in sugar cane in British Guiana and Trinidad actually refer to *D. impersonatella* (e.g. Urich 1910, 1915, Wolcott 1913, Bodkin 1913, Cleare 1922, 1923, Box 1926), in Mexico to *D. grandiosella* (e.g. Van Zwaluwenburg 1923, 1926a, 1926b, Morrill 1925, Anonymous 1927, Van Dine 1929, Osborn & Phillips 1946), and in corn and sugar cane in the United States to *D. grandiosella* (e.g. Dyar 1911, Barnes & McDunnough 1917, Morrill 1919, Holloway & Loftin 1919a,b, Vorhies 1919, USDA 1922, Howard 1923, Anonymous 1925). In addition, the NCB has been mistakenly reported attacking sugar cane in Dutch Guiana by Van Dine (1929), in Cuba by Van Dine (1926, 1929), and in Venezuela by Box (1927a). Finally, the NCB has been confused with *D. grandiosella* attacking corn in northeastern Mexico and south Texas, where the latter species has been erroneously reported by Elias (1970) and Cevallos-Davila (1970). Examination of specimens from several comprehensive surveys failed to detect *D. grandiosella* in this area (Agnew et al. in press).

NCB was referred to as *Zeadiatraea lineolata* in the literature after Box (1955) established this new genus based on morphological characters. However, Bleszynski (1966) returned *lineolata* and other species to *Diatraea*, their original genus.

Bibliographical entries were obtained from the following sources: Biological Abstracts (1927, Vol. 1 through 1988, Vol. 84, No. 1), Entomology Abstracts (1969, Vol. 1 through 1987, Vol. 18, No. 11), Review of Applied Entomology, Series A (1913, Vol. 1 through 1987, Vol. 75, No. 11), and literature citations in the reviewed articles themselves. We also used the National Agricultural Library and Biosciences Information Services computerized literature search system in the library of the Texas A&M University.

Most references cited are on file with the authors. The references are listed alphabetically by author(s). Depending on the type of information given, a number after each reference indicates the following categories:

- (1) Distribution and catalog/listing.
- (2) Taxonomy and morphology.
- (3) Biology and ecology.
- (4) Economic damage and host plants.
- (5) Biological control.
- (6) Host plant resistance.
- (7) Chemical control.
- (8) Erroneous reports for other species.

Only a small portion of the references cited here include substantial information on NCB; the majority either make brief mention of NCB or are misidentities with other species. We included many Mexican and Central American local reports since they are not commonly cited in the literature. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, most of them either include general information or represent only preliminary observations on NCB. Because *D. lineolata* has been poorly studied in spite of its wide distribution and importance as a pest of corn, more detailed studies are needed on its biology, ecology, and control.

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DESCRIPTION OF *ATRICHOPOGON WIRTHI* NEW SPECIES (DIPTERA: CERATOPOGONIDAE) FROM LEAVES OF THE WATER LETTUCE (*PISTIA STRATIOTES*) IN FLORIDA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Atrichopogon* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae), whose immature stages are found on leaves of the water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes* L., is described in all stages. The adults have a glossy black head and thorax, white abdomen, and dark terminal tarsal segments. The pupa possesses large, elongate tubercles and bears dark brown mediodorsal and dorsolateral pigmented spots on the first six abdominal segments. The larva is atypical, resembling those of the subgenus *Forcipomyia*. The larva does not resemble any of the *Atrichopogon* species figured by Ewen and Saunders (1958). The species is quite distinct and different from the seven described Florida species of *Atrichopogon* listed by Wilkening et al. (1985).

RESUMEN

Se describe en todas sus etapas una nueva especie de *Atrichopogon* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae), cuya etapa inmadura se encuentra en hojas de la lechuga *Pistia*