PRELIMINARY STUDY CONCERNING CLIMATIC CONDITIONS INFLUENCE FROM WINTER SEASON ON MAIZE LEAF WEEVIL (*TANYMECUS DILATICOLLIS* GYLL) ATTACK

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Abstract

Maize leaf weevil (*Tanymecus dilaticollis* Gyll) is the main pest of the maize crops in south and south-east of the Romania. In this paper, authors collective present preliminary results of a study concerning influence of the winter conditions on attack of *T. dilaticollis*. It has analyzed the temperatures from winter (December-February) and attack intensity of the studied pest at maize untreated plants, in spring period. Pest attack was rated when maize plants were in four leaf stage (BBCH 14) on a scale from 1 (plant not attacked) to 9 (plants complete destroyed). During the time, at NARDI Fundulea, winters were variable, from one year to another. The attack of *T. dilaticollis* at maize untreated plants registered in springs followed after cold winters was low in 1999 (I=4.3), high in 2003 and 2012 (I=7.8 and 6.7) and moderate in 2011 (I=5.8). The attack registered in springs followed after warm winters was high in 1989 (I=9.0) and 1995 (I=8.4), while in year 2001, followed after one of the warmest wither of the century, the attack of the maize leaf weevil at untreated plants was low (I=4.8). There were no correlation between temperatures registered during winter season and attack of *T. dilaticollis* at maize plants registered in spring. The most important for pest attack are the climatic conditions from period when maize are in first vegetation stages (BBCH 10-14). Results of the study effectuated at NARDI Fundulea make in evidence that low rainfalls level and high temperatures from this period favor pest attack.

Key words: winter, maize, pest, attack, temperature