



Damages caused by *diabrotica virgifera* species on maize plants from western plain conditions

Ioana GROZEA, A. CARABET, Ramona CHIRITA - USAMVB Timisoara

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera Le Conte species is considered one of the most dangerous pests for maize fields from western part of country. It is a new invasive pest from Europe and of course from Romania. So adults, as long as larvae are important because the adults consume leafs, silk, pollen, corn maize, adventives roots and larvae attack the maize roots.

From first pointing, 1996, until now, the researches shows an evolutive increasing of damage. Adults prefer leafs immediately after the emergence, and after that are concentrated in great number on green silk. The silk can be partial or totality consumed, inclusively the silk that is present on the cob "under husk". In studied period, the number of cobs without silk was increasing year by year.

Following periodical evolution (2002 – 2005) of the larvae attack it could be found a fluctuation increasing, so the percent of plants with characteristic aspects of damaged roots by larvae ("goose neck") was by 39% (2002), 45% (2003), 10% (2004) and 15% (2005) .

The food, especially the silk colour can influence the body colour.