BOOK REVIEW

HAND BOOK FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF LEAFHOPPER FAUNA
(CICADELLIDAE: HEMIPTERA) OF ANDHRA PRADESH

By V. Rama Subba Rao, M.S.V. Chalam and P. Sudha Jacob
Published by Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Leafhoppers, an economically important insect group, belong to the family Cicadellidae. Many of them are very serious crop pests while a few species act as vectors of diseases.

Leafhoppers to be specific, are Auchenorrhynchan Hemiptera that belongs to the family Cicadellidae, comprising of about 200 described genera and 30,000 species. The members of this family are commonly referred to as “leafhoppers” due to their hopping habit. The accurate identification of a pest species affecting any crop is the first and foremost step in Integrated Pest Management programmes. The literature dealing with the identification and taxonomy of leafhoppers is scattered in many journals and monographs. The leafhoppers included in this book were collected from the different crop ecosystems of Andhra Pradesh during 1994-2005, authentically identified and published in various international and national journals. Most of these leafhoppers may be pests on crops or feed on weeds or may be casual visitors. The broad objective of this hand book is to give a comprehensive account of leafhoppers found on economically important crops like rice, sugarcane, cotton, mango, oilseeds, pulses and vegetables with distinguishing characters for their identification for use by both economic entomologists, extension field workers, and virologists.

There are seven chapters with the following titles:

Chapter 1. Introduction

Chapter 2. Leafhopper species studied in Andhra Pradesh and their synonyms

Chapter 3. Processing of leafhoppers for the study and diagnosis

Chapter 4. General structure of a leafhopper

Chapter 5. Diagnostic characters of different leafhoppers

Chapter 6. Leafhoppers as pest status in different crop ecosystems and vector species

Chapter 7. Identification keys to the leafhopper species

The book published in 2006 provides excellent keys to 105 species together with 143 line diagrams. There are 101 colour plates which add to the richness of the book.

Entomologists get more than a full value for Rs. 250/-, the price of the book. The authors are quite modest in affirming the book’s importance to their state, Andhra Pradesh. But, this work has larger implication across south India, and in fact the whole of India and beyond, as hoppers are fairly widespread. It is hoped, that this book will give impetus to further investigations into biosystematics and biodiversity. The Association for Advancement of Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems congratulates Dr. V. Rama Subba Rao and his team for the excellent treatise, and hopefully we will get an enlarged version in the future.

- Dr. Abraham Verghese