Outbreak of gujhia weevil, *Tanymecus indicus* (Faust) on pigeonpea in Yadgir district

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Gujhia weevil, *Tanymecus indicus* (Faust), Curculionidae has been observed damaging pigeonpea (red gram) at the seedling stage in Gurumitkal, Yadagir district. The newly formed Yadagir district and Gulbarga districts have been considered ‘pulse bowl’ with major areas in pigeonpea along with intercrops like sunflower, bajra, green gram, black gram etc. Gujhia weevil, *T. indicus* has been recorded earlier as a traditional pest on wheat in Northern India (Nair, 1975). This is a new observation as a pest on pigeonpea. It is greyish black, about 6-7 mm in length. The weevil incidence was noticed from mid June coinciding with the onset of monsoon and survived till the second fortnight of July. Weevil incidence was almost confined to few isolated patches in the area. Population of the weevil ranged from 0.32 to 4.28 per 0.3m² during mid-July, and declined after. The weevil damages the germinating sprouts and young seedlings. They scrape the young plants at collar region just above the soil surface. As a result, seedlings with thin bases break down and dry-up. Overall 65.50 % seedling death was recorded (ranging from 48.30 to 80.10%) in infested plots. The scrapped symptoms were also observed on intercrops *viz.*, sunflower and green gram plants just above the soil surface. The damage symptom observed was 60.2 and 25.5 % on sunflower and green gram plants, respectively. Seedling death was not observed on intercrops possibly due to moderately thicker stem girth as compared to pigeonpea. Fields with severe pest incidence even necessitated re-sowing and farmers switched over from pigeonpea to other crops such as sunflower, jowar *etc.*

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References:

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