Record of stem weevil, *Alcidodes fabrici* (F.) (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) on Golden rod (*Solidago canadensis* L.) in south Gujarat

S. M. Chavan and Sushilkumar  
Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari,  
Gujarat, India  
Email: sachinento@gmail.com

*Solidago canadensis* L. is an erect growing perennial plant commonly known as the golden rod. It belongs to the family Asteraceae is grown in beds, borders or rock gardens. Besides, they are also used as cut flowers for indoor decoration and bouquets. It produces large panicles of yellow colour in throughout year, which are very attractive. This hardy perennial herb grows in almost all climates and soils but prefers a sunny location. Glycosides and essential oils are extracted from *Solidago*. The flowers are a rich source of nectar for honeybees. Golden rod is an important flower crop at international level, basically as filler material in flower arrangement and bouquets. It serves as background and goes very well with other flower like rose, gerbera, tuberose, gladiolus etc in bouquets and vases.

During the survey of insect pests of horticultural crops in south Gujarat ecosystem the adults of stem weevil, *Alcidodes fabrici* (F.) (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) were recorded to feed on Golden rod. The adults injure young shoots, stem and petioles just by scraping with their chewing and biting type of mouth parts. The damaged parts were clearly visible on the plants. Adult were stout, elongate, oval, body medium sized 7.5-8mm, and reddish brown with black snout. At the posterior margin of snout is present a white spot just anterior to scutellum. Two pairs of longitudinal white strips are present on posterior half of elytra. Anterior lateral margin of elytra has one white longitudinal incomplete stripe. Two pairs of longitudinal white strips are present on posterior half of elytra. Geniculate antennae arise laterally from the middle of snout laterally. Eyes are black, prominent present at the base of rostrum. Pronotum is black, elytra with longitudinal grooves and pits. Subsequently, the insect specimen was identified as *Alcidodes fabrici* (F.) (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) by taxonomist at Insect Identification Service, Division of Entomology, IARI, New Delhi.

According to Subramanian, (1959) shoot weevil, *Alcidodes affaber* Auriv has been reported to be a minor pest of cotton in South India. Ames *et al.*, (1996) recorded that *A. dentipes* and *A. erroneous* are pests of sweet potato commonly known as striped sweet potato weevil. The
larvae bore into the vines and sometime into the storage roots. The vine base swells up. Adult weevils girdle the vines, causing wilting. Similarly, Jing et al. (1980) recorded that Alcidodes sp. is an important pest and causes serious damage to walnut fruits. Rekha and Mallapur (2007) recorded that gall weevil; A. collaris is a pest damaging dolichos bean in Northern Karnataka. Manivannan et al. (2010) reported that a weevil, Alcidodes sp. was found to infest the seeds of Cinnamomum sulphuratatum. Moreover they also noted that, the mean percent infestation of seeds ranged from 32-38.62%. Infestation has adversely affected the seed germination and a decreasing trend in germination was observed, with increase in infestation level. Further, Vijaykumar et al., (2011) reported that shoot weevil, A. affaber is widespread across the cotton belt of Karnataka irrespective of the hybrids with variation in level of infestation.

References:


