



First record of Leaf Twisting Weevil *Apoderus tranquebaricus* in almond tree

Dr. K. Selvam

Department of Agricultural Entomology,
SRS Institute of Agriculture and Technology, Vedsandur, Dindigul, (T.N.), India

*Email: selvamentomology@gmail.com

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Almond (*Prunus dulcis*, *Prunus amygdalus* Batsch., *Amygdalus communis* L., *Amygdalus dulcis* Mill.) is a species of *Prunus* that belongs to the Rosaceae subfamily Prunoideae. The plant is categorised with the peach in the subgenus *Amygdalus* within *Prunus*, with the corrugated seedshell distinguishing it from the other subgenera. It is endemic to southwest Asia, from northwestern Saudi Arabia to southern Turkey, passing via western Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, and

western Syria. Domesticated almonds first occur in the Near East during the Early Bronze Age (3000-2000 BC). The almond fruits discovered in Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt (about 1325 BC) were most likely brought from the Levant. Lawz in Arabic, Baadaam in Persian, Urdu, Hindi, and badaam paruppu in Tamil are all names for almond. Leaf curling aphid, Sanjose scale, Chaffer beetle were the common pest reported in almond.



Fig 1.a

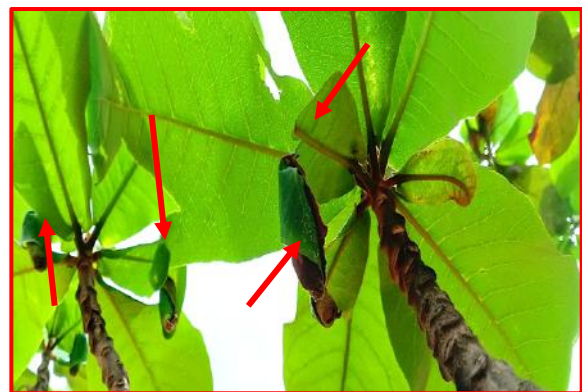


Fig 1.b



Fig 1.c



Fig 2

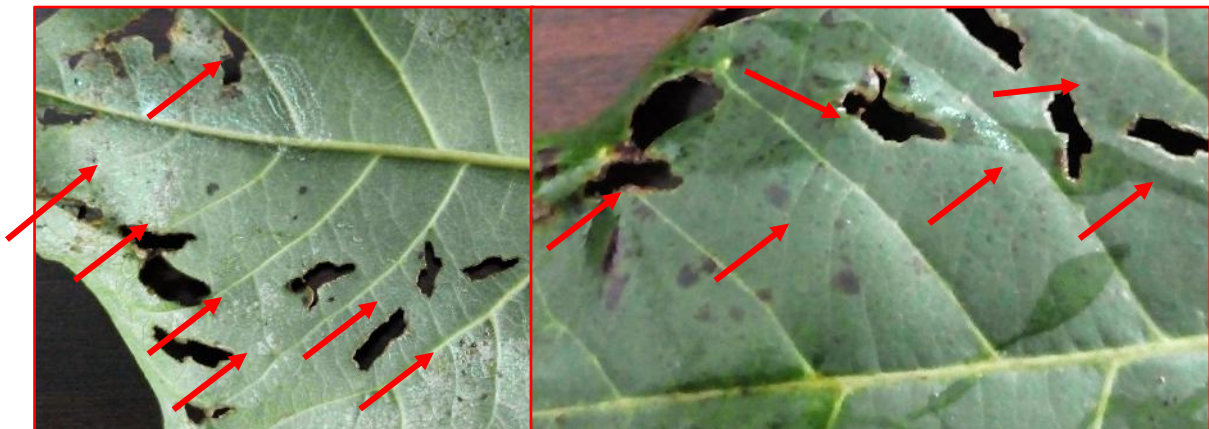


Fig 3

Leaf twisting weevil *Apoderus tranquebaricus* Fab. (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) hosts were recorded mostly in tree crops like Mango, Jamun, Amaranthus, Jack Fruit, Cashew, Teak, Guava, Neem etc. Almond tree were recorded with the adult weevil has the habit of cutting and twisting the leaves into shapely thimble like rolls which remain attached to the parent leaves. The grub feeds on the leaf tissue within the leaf roll (Fig. 1. a, b, c). The adult weevil is medium sized, reddish brown with a long snout (Fig. 2). Eggs are

laid in each leaf roll. The grub pupates within the leaf roll.

Adult with the long snout rostrum scrapping the chlorophyll content from the leaf surface, holes with lined structure shows dark reddish brown dried as an injury symptom (Fig. 3.1 and 3.2). Infestation starts from the month September (2022) where the visual symptoms were appeared in December (2022) and peak level in January (2023). Further studies were planned and yet to be finished.

References

1. Verma M. K. (2014). Almond production technology. Training manual on teaching of post-graduate courses in horticulture (Fruit Science), 1: 274-280.