

## RESEARCH NOTE-II

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE TO SILVER FIR SEED CAUSED BY  
CONE-BORER, *DIORYCTRIA ABIETELLA* SCHIFF

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Cone-borer, *Dioryctria abietella* Schiff, which has been reported on *Pinus gerardiana* from Baluchistan (Chaudhry 1960) and *Pinus roxburghii*, *P. wallichiana*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Abies pindrow* from Swat (Chaudhry *et al* 1966) is infesting cones of Silver fir (*Abies pindrow*) in six localities of Hazara (NWFP). It destroys the seed out rightly or damages to the extent that the viability is undermined.

To assess seed infestation cones of Silver fir, *Abies pindrow* were collected from 15 randomised sample trees each from six localities-Allai, Dungagali, Hillan, Kuzagali, Shogran and Thandiani during 1980. Seeds were extracted from the cones and 5 random samples of the seed were taken from the seed lot of each tree of each locality. The number of seeds in the samples varied from 1748 to 2984.

PERCENT FIR SEED INFESTATION BY *D. ABIETELLA*

Locality	Seed infestation samples					Average
	1	2	3	4	5	
Kuzagali	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.8*
Allai	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.0	2.0*
Thandiani	2.8	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7*
Dungagali	3.6	2.9	2.5	3.0	3.9	3.2*
Hillan	3.5	3.3	4.0	3.0	4.1	3.6*
Shogran	5.3	5.7	6.0	4.9	5.0	5.4*

\* Based on the results of 15 x 5 samples.

The extent of seed infestation in good seed years, which may be expected about once in every 3-4 years, is insignificant but it may be of economic importance during lean seed-years. Therefore check of seed infestation caused by *Dioryctria abietella* is essential during the lean seed-years.

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