



## SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS AND GENERATIONS NUMBER OF TORTOISE BEETLE, *CASSIDA VITTATA* (Vill.) INFESTING SUGAR BEET PLANTS AND THE SOME ASSOCIATED PREDATORS, EGYPT

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Received: Nov. 2, 2019

Accepted: Nov. 20, 2019

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**ABSTRACT:** *Seasonal fluctuations and number of generations of Cassida vittata (Vill) (eggs, larvae and adults) and seasonal fluctuation of the some associated predators, Coccinella undecimpunctata (L.), Paederus alfieri (Koch.), Chrysoperla Carnea (Stephens), Scymnus sp. and true spiders were studied at Diarb- Nigm district, Sharkia Governorate, during the two sugar beet plants seasons 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. The seasonal fluctuation of C. vittata (adults, eggs and larvae) on sugar beet plants recorded two peaks during each seasons. Peaks of eggs were recorded in 7<sup>th</sup> of March and 4<sup>th</sup> of April in the first season, while in the second season, these peaks were noticed in 6<sup>th</sup> of March and 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Peaks of larvae were recorded in 21<sup>th</sup> of March and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in the first season, while in the second season, these peaks were noticed in 20<sup>th</sup> of March and 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Peaks of adults were recorded in 11<sup>th</sup> of April and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in the first season, while in the second season, these peaks were noticed in 3<sup>rd</sup> of April and 1<sup>st</sup> of May. C. vittata eggs, larvae and adults were recorded were recorded three generations for the two seasons. The peak of C. undecimpunctat and P. alfieri was occurred in 21<sup>th</sup> of March and 20<sup>th</sup> of March for the first and second seasons. The peak of C. Carnea was recorded in 14<sup>th</sup> of March and 13<sup>th</sup> of March for the two seasons. The peak of true spiders was recorded in 11<sup>th</sup> of April and 17<sup>th</sup> of April for the two seasons. The numbers of Scymnus sp was decreased for the two seasons. The relation ship between (adults, eggs and larvae) numbers and mean maximum, minimum temperature and RH%.*

**Key words:** *Sugar beet plants, seasonal fluctuations, generations, Cassida vittata, predators.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Sugar beet, *Beta vulgaris* L., growing for sugar production and it is considered as one of the two important sugar beet crops in the world and Egypt. The Egyptian government encourages sugar beet growers to increase the cultivated area with sugar beet for decreasing the gap between sugar production by sugar cane and consumption. Sugar beet quality is of great economic importance. Several numbers of insects attack this crop caused considerable damage in its yield. *C. vittata* considered among the economic pests of sugar beet plants at present

Guirguis (1985) the highest larval population of *C. vittata* took place from mid-March to mid-April with minimum occurrence by late June. The maximum number of the adult beetle and highest infestation occurred in May, and the insect numbers were lowest by late June till harvest. Ali *et al.*, (1993) stated that sever infestation of *C. vittata* was concentrated in October and November plantations and recorded the common predators on sugar beet plants which *C. undecimpunctata*, *P. alfieri* and *C. carnea*. Predator numbers recorded two peaks, the first one occurred in December, while the other was in June.

Awadalla (1993) the *C. vittata* recorded two peaks of eggs, larvae, pupae and adults on sugar beet plants at Mansoura region. Bassyouny (1993) showed that *C. vittata* appeared in December and its population gradually increased in all plantations as the sugar-beet plants become older reaching the peak in April and May. Shalaby (2001) the *C. vittata* adults were surveyed from sugar-beet plants for the first time in December, and reached maximum as a complex of larvae and adults during March in September plantation. The maximum populations of October and November plantations were recorded in April. El-Khouly (2006) observed that the initial appearance of *C. vittata* survivors occurred in January reached a peak in April. The changes in the population densities of the predacious insects; *C. undecimpunctata*, *P. alfieri* and *C. carnea* coincided with the population densities of the tested pests *P. mixta* and *C. vittata*. Amin *et al.*, (2008) indicated that the infestation by *C. vittata* appeared in the last week of March and extended until the second week of May. The population density of this insect recorded three peaks during the activity period, in last week of March, mid April and mid May. Abo El-Ftooh *et al.*, (2013) showed that The population fluctuations of *C. vittata* (larvae and adults) numbers were increasing whenever plants became bigger. Khalifa, Amany (2017) Showed that sugar beet plants of August and September plantations suffered very low infestation with *C. vittata* larvae and adults. However, the highest insect population density was detected in October plantation; with values of larvae and adults in the first and second seasons. It was obvious that *C. vittata* population density was very high during March, April and May in sugar beet plants of October plantation.

The present study aimed to investigate seasonal fluctuations and

generations number of *C. vittata* and seasonal fluctuation of the some associated predators *C. undecimpunctata*, *P. alfieri*, *C. Carnea*, *Scymnus* sp. and true spiders. Effect of maximum, minimum temperature and relative humidity on the number of *C. vittata*.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Experimental Design:

The experiment was carried out at Diarb- Nigm district, Sharkia Governorate, during two growing sugar beet seasons of 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 to study seasonal population fluctuations and generations number of *C. vittata*. The experimental area 1050 m<sup>2</sup> was chosen and divided into three plots. The field was planted with sugar beet on the end of October during two seasons. The normal agricultural practical were followed and no pesticides treatments were applied during the whole experimental period.

### Sample technique

Direct count, Sampling started when the age of sugar beet plants reached one month after sowing and continued weekly throughout the growing seasons from 14<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December until 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons. The following procedures of sampling were adopted. 25 plants were taken randomly and the total number of existing of *C. vittata* (adults, eggs and larvae) and predators on plants were recorded. For clearing the effect of certain weather factors such as temperature and relative humidity on the seasonal fluctuations of *C. vittata*, the daily mean of the two factors were provided by the Meteorological central Laboratory for Agricultural Climate-Agricultural Research Center during the whole period of the two seasons (2015/2016 and 2016/2017).

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### Number of generation

The approximated number and duration of the annual field generation of *C. vittata* (adults, eggs and larvae) were calculated according Audemard and Milaire (1975) and by Jacob (1977). The data were plotted on semigaussion (Scale Gauss) and a regression line represented each generation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 1. Seasonal fluctuations of *C. vittata* on sugar beet plants.

#### 1) Adults

Results in Tables (1 and 2) indicated

that adults of tortoise beetle began to appear in 21<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December with few numbers 6 and 4 adults / 25 plants during first and second seasons on sugar beet plants, respectively. The number of the adults had two peaks during the two seasons. These peaks were recorded in 11<sup>th</sup> of April and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May represented by 87 and 93 adults/25 plants, respectively, in the first season. In the second season, these peaks were noticed in 3<sup>rd</sup> of April and 1<sup>st</sup> of May represented by 100 and 85 adults /25 plants, respectively.

Table (1): Weekly number of tortoise beetle, *C. vittata* (adults, eggs and larvae) infested sugar beet plants and accumulated during 2015/2016 season.

| Date  | Accumulated days | No. of adults | Accumulated |       | No. of eggs | Accumulated |       | No. of larvae | Accumulated |       | Temp. |       | R.H%  |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                  |               | No.         | %     |             | No.         | %     |               | No.         | %     | . Min | . Max |       |
| 14\12 | 7                | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 11.29 | 19.71 | 68.14 |
| 21\12 | 14               | 6             | 6           | 0.66  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 11.57 | 20.86 | 64.57 |
| 28\12 | 21               | 9             | 15          | 1.64  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 11.00 | 20.00 | 68.14 |
| 4\1   | 28               | 13            | 28          | 3.06  | 8           | 8           | 1.17  | 1             | 1           | 0.06  | 10.29 | 18.00 | 61.68 |
| 11\1  | 35               | 15            | 43          | 4.70  | 11          | 19          | 2.77  | 2             | 3           | 0.19  | 12.43 | 20.14 | 45.14 |
| 18\1  | 42               | 15            | 58          | 6.35  | 14          | 33          | 4.82  | 28            | 31          | 1.97  | 10.43 | 20.29 | 64.14 |
| 25\1  | 49               | 17            | 75          | 8.21  | 20          | 53          | 7.74  | 13            | 44          | 2.80  | 9.29  | 16.43 | 54.29 |
| 1\2   | 56               | 22            | 97          | 10.61 | 25          | 78          | 11.39 | 17            | 61          | 3.89  | 7.00  | 15.29 | 69.86 |
| 8\2   | 63               | 23            | 120         | 13.13 | 30          | 108         | 15.77 | 24            | 85          | 5.41  | 10.57 | 20.29 | 59.71 |
| 15\2  | 70               | 27            | 147         | 16.08 | 29          | 137         | 20.00 | 33            | 118         | 7.52  | 11.14 | 20.86 | 50.43 |
| 22\2  | 77               | 31            | 178         | 19.47 | 34          | 171         | 24.96 | 54            | 172         | 10.96 | 16.43 | 27.57 | 48.57 |
| 29\2  | 84               | 39            | 217         | 23.74 | 36          | 207         | 30.22 | 64            | 236         | 15.03 | 14.71 | 24.71 | 50.86 |
| 7\3   | 91               | 37            | 254         | 27.79 | 81          | 288         | 42.04 | 62            | 298         | 18.98 | 17.86 | 30.71 | 58.28 |
| 14\3  | 98               | 47            | 301         | 32.93 | 54          | 342         | 49.93 | 119           | 417         | 26.56 | 16.86 | 28.42 | 39.57 |
| 21\3  | 105              | 45            | 346         | 37.86 | 40          | 382         | 55.77 | 257           | 674         | 42.93 | 15.14 | 24.29 | 50.00 |
| 28\3  | 112              | 58            | 404         | 44.20 | 47          | 429         | 62.63 | 190           | 864         | 55.03 | 17.00 | 27.43 | 40.86 |
| 4\4   | 119              | 61            | 465         | 50.88 | 60          | 489         | 71.39 | 115           | 979         | 62.36 | 14.71 | 26.81 | 54.86 |
| 11\4  | 126              | 87            | 552         | 60.39 | 49          | 538         | 78.54 | 95            | 1074        | 68.41 | 20.57 | 34.00 | 36.71 |
| 18\4  | 133              | 72            | 624         | 68.27 | 27          | 565         | 82.48 | 79            | 1153        | 73.44 | 18.86 | 30.14 | 45.43 |
| 25\4  | 140              | 64            | 688         | 75.27 | 25          | 590         | 86.13 | 107           | 1260        | 80.25 | 20.14 | 35.57 | 41.29 |
| 2\5   | 147              | 93            | 781         | 85.45 | 26          | 616         | 89.93 | 145           | 1405        | 89.49 | 19.00 | 33.14 | 43.29 |
| 9\5   | 154              | 70            | 851         | 93.11 | 33          | 649         | 94.74 | 113           | 1518        | 96.69 | 20.14 | 31.14 | 43.29 |
| 16\5  | 161              | 63            | 914         | 100   | 36          | 685         | 100   | 52            | 1570        | 100   | 23.71 | 37.14 | 35.43 |

**Table (2): Weekly number of tortoise beetle, *C. vittata* (adults, eggs and larvae) infested sugar beet plants and accumulated during 2016/2017 season.**

| Date  | Accumulated days | No. of adults | Accumulated |       | No. of eggs | Accumulated |       | No. of larvae | Accumulated |       | Temp. |       | R.H%  |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                  |               | No.         | %     |             | No.         | %     |               | No.         | %     | . Min | . Max |       |
| 12\12 | 7                | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 12.21 | 21.43 | 57.31 |
| 19\12 | 14               | 4             | 4           | 0.31  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 11.36 | 20.17 | 55.67 |
| 26\12 | 21               | 8             | 12          | 0.92  | 0           | 0           | 0.00  | 0             | 0           | 0.00  | 10.43 | 18.29 | 56.17 |
| 2\1   | 28               | 13            | 25          | 1.91  | 11          | 11          | 1.56  | 1             | 1           | 0.08  | 10.07 | 19.00 | 60.5  |
| 9\1   | 35               | 18            | 43          | 3.28  | 10          | 21          | 2.97  | 5             | 6           | 0.46  | 9.14  | 18.00 | 52.86 |
| 16\1  | 42               | 37            | 80          | 6.10  | 12          | 33          | 4.67  | 10            | 16          | 1.23  | 10.43 | 17.57 | 49.57 |
| 23\1  | 49               | 43            | 123         | 9.38  | 16          | 49          | 6.93  | 14            | 30          | 2.31  | 9.71  | 19.43 | 72.43 |
| 30\1  | 56               | 51            | 174         | 13.27 | 20          | 69          | 9.76  | 15            | 45          | 3.47  | 11.57 | 18.71 | 53.40 |
| 6\2   | 63               | 53            | 227         | 17.32 | 22          | 91          | 12.87 | 26            | 71          | 5.47  | 6.00  | 17.71 | 60.86 |
| 13\2  | 70               | 64            | 291         | 22.19 | 27          | 118         | 16.69 | 44            | 115         | 8.87  | 11.71 | 21.71 | 55.43 |
| 20\2  | 77               | 65            | 356         | 27.15 | 28          | 146         | 20.65 | 53            | 168         | 12.95 | 11.71 | 16.43 | 60.71 |
| 27\2  | 84               | 68            | 424         | 32.34 | 34          | 180         | 25.46 | 61            | 229         | 17.66 | 10.86 | 21.00 | 62.57 |
| 6\3   | 91               | 61            | 485         | 36.99 | 65          | 245         | 34.65 | 79            | 308         | 23.75 | 13.29 | 23.86 | 63.14 |
| 13\3  | 98               | 67            | 552         | 42.11 | 41          | 286         | 40.45 | 81            | 389         | 29.99 | 15.14 | 23.57 | 44.00 |
| 20\3  | 105              | 73            | 625         | 47.67 | 33          | 319         | 45.12 | 98            | 487         | 37.55 | 13.71 | 21.86 | 52.57 |
| 27\3  | 112              | 91            | 716         | 54.61 | 48          | 367         | 51.91 | 61            | 548         | 42.25 | 15.14 | 24.00 | 59.40 |
| 3\4   | 119              | 100           | 816         | 62.24 | 51          | 418         | 59.12 | 53            | 601         | 46.34 | 16.43 | 27.00 | 47.14 |
| 10\4  | 126              | 85            | 901         | 68.73 | 43          | 461         | 65.21 | 46            | 647         | 49.88 | 15.71 | 26.71 | 55.86 |
| 17\4  | 133              | 71            | 972         | 74.14 | 61          | 522         | 73.83 | 79            | 726         | 55.98 | 16.57 | 26.29 | 55.86 |
| 24\4  | 140              | 53            | 1025        | 78.18 | 48          | 570         | 80.62 | 113           | 839         | 64.69 | 18.43 | 31.43 | 36.71 |
| 1\5   | 147              | 85            | 1110        | 84.67 | 41          | 611         | 86.42 | 170           | 1009        | 77.79 | 17.00 | 28.43 | 44.14 |
| 8\5   | 154              | 73            | 1183        | 90.24 | 39          | 650         | 91.94 | 140           | 1149        | 88.59 | 19.43 | 29.86 | 52.17 |
| 15\5  | 161              | 75            | 1258        | 95.96 | 36          | 686         | 97.03 | 93            | 1242        | 95.76 | 21.00 | 36.00 | 37.71 |
| 22\5  | 168              | 53            | 1311        | 100   | 21          | 707         | 100   | 55            | 1297        | 100   | 21.19 | 32.29 | 46.43 |

**2) Eggs**

Results in Tables (1 and 2) indicated that eggs of tortoise beetle began to appear in the first of week January with few numbers 8 and 11 eggs / 25 plants during first and second seasons on sugar beet plants. The number of eggs had two peaks during the two seasons. These peaks were recorded in 7<sup>th</sup> of March and 4<sup>th</sup> of April represented by 81 and 60 eggs/ 25 plants, respectively, in the first season. In the second season, these peaks were noticed in 6<sup>th</sup> of March and 17<sup>th</sup> of April represented by 65 and 61 eggs/ 25 plants, respectively.

**3) Larvae**

The larvae of tortoise beetle began to appear in the first of week of January with few numbers 1 larvae / 25 plants during the first and second seasons on sugar beet plants. The larvae had two peaks during the two seasons. These peaks were recorded in 21<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May represented by 257 and 145 larvae/25 plants, respectively, in the first season while in the second season, it were noticed in 20<sup>th</sup> of March and 1<sup>st</sup> of May represented by 98 and 170 larvae /25 plants, respectively Tables (1 and 2).

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**2. Number of generations of *C. vittata* on sugar beet plants.**

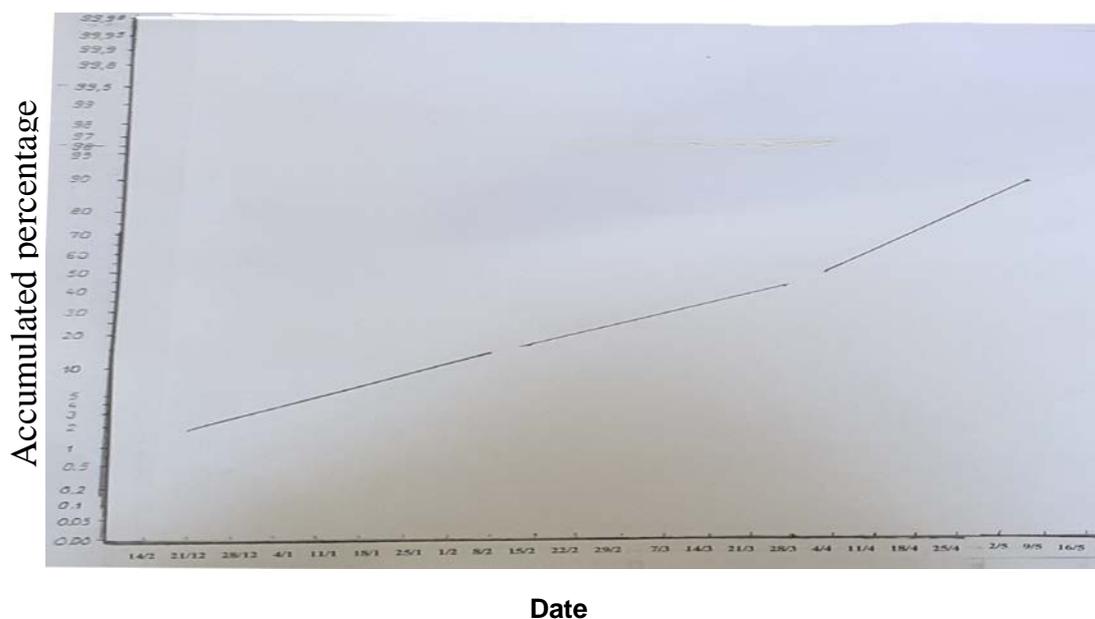
**1) Adults**

Data given in Figs. (1 and 2) and Table (3) showed three generations of *C. vittata* adults for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons on sugar beet plants. The first generation was started at 21<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December in the first and second seasons and continued to 8 weeks until

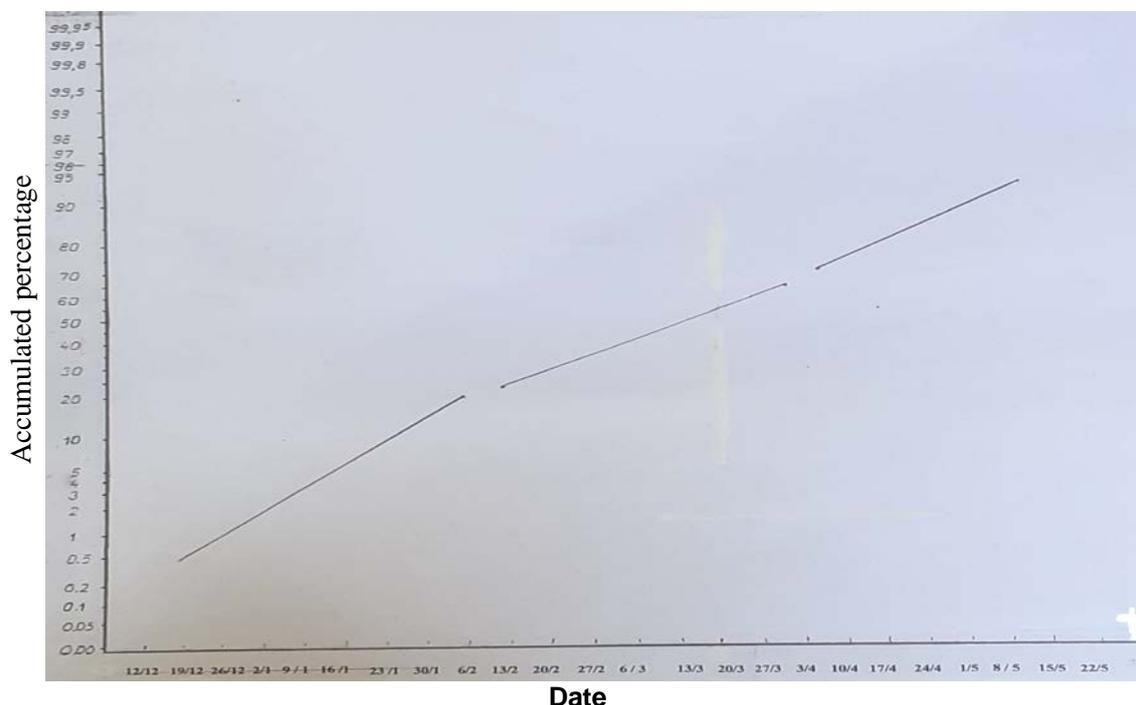
8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February, respectively. The second generation was appeared at 15<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February in the first and second seasons and continued to 7 and 8 weeks until 28<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, respectively. The third generation was appeared at 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April in the first and second seasons and continued to 6 weeks until the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May, respectively.

**Table (3): The annual generation of *C. vittata* (adults) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 and 2016 /2017 seasons.**

| Generation number | 2015/2016                    |                             |                   |              |       | 2016/2017                    |                             |                   |              |       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
|                   | Duration                     |                             | Duration in weeks | Total adults |       | Duration                     |                             | Duration in weeks | Total adults |       |
|                   | From                         | To                          |                   | Number       | %     | From                         | To                          |                   | Number       | %     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 21 <sup>th</sup> of December | 8 <sup>th</sup> of February | 8 weeks           | 120          | 13.13 | 19 <sup>th</sup> of December | 6 <sup>th</sup> of February | 8 weeks           | 227          | 17.32 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 15 <sup>th</sup> of February | 28 <sup>th</sup> of March   | 7 weeks           | 284          | 31.07 | 13 <sup>th</sup> of February | 3 <sup>rd</sup> of April    | 8 weeks           | 589          | 44.93 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup> of April     | 9 <sup>th</sup> of May      | 6 weeks           | 447          | 48.91 | 10 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 15 <sup>th</sup> of May     | 6 weeks           | 449          | 33.71 |



**Fig. (1): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (adults) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 season.**



**Fig. (2): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (adults) in Sharkia Governorate during 2016/2017 season**

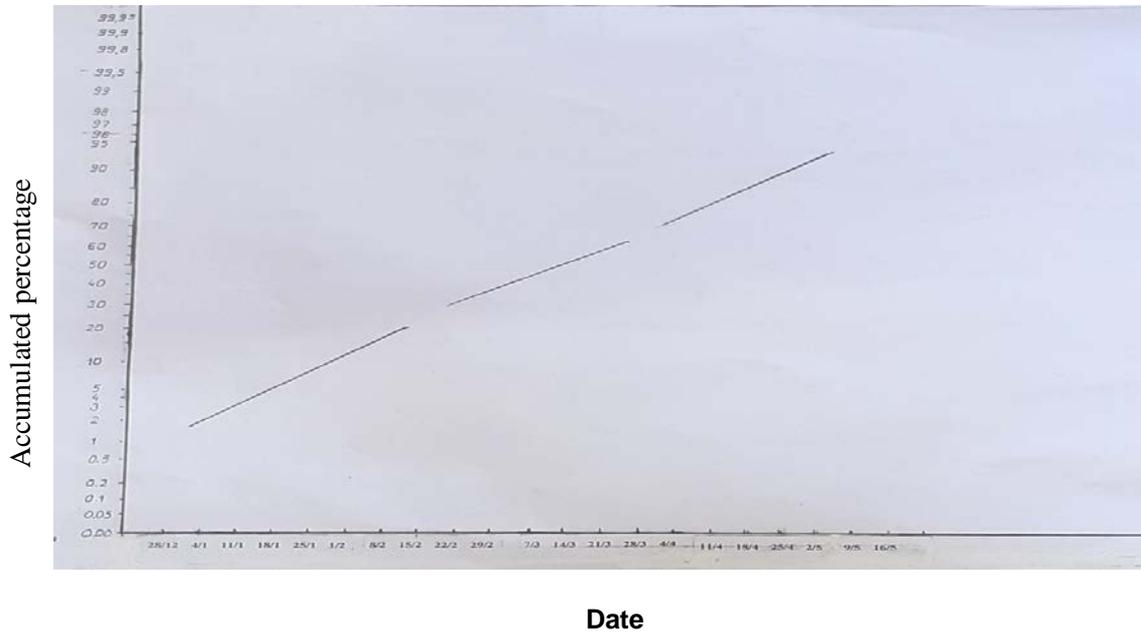
## 2) Eggs

The data in Figs. (3 and 4) and Table (4) showed that the *C. vittata* eggs had three generations for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons on sugar beet plants. The first generation was started at 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January in the first and second seasons and continued to 7 and 8 weeks until 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February during first and second seasons, respectively. The second generation was appeared at 22<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February in both experimental seasons and continued to 6 and 7 weeks until 28<sup>th</sup> of March and 10<sup>th</sup> of April during first and second seasons, respectively. The third generation was appeared at 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April in both experimental seasons and continued to 6 and 5 weeks until 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May during first and second seasons, respectively.

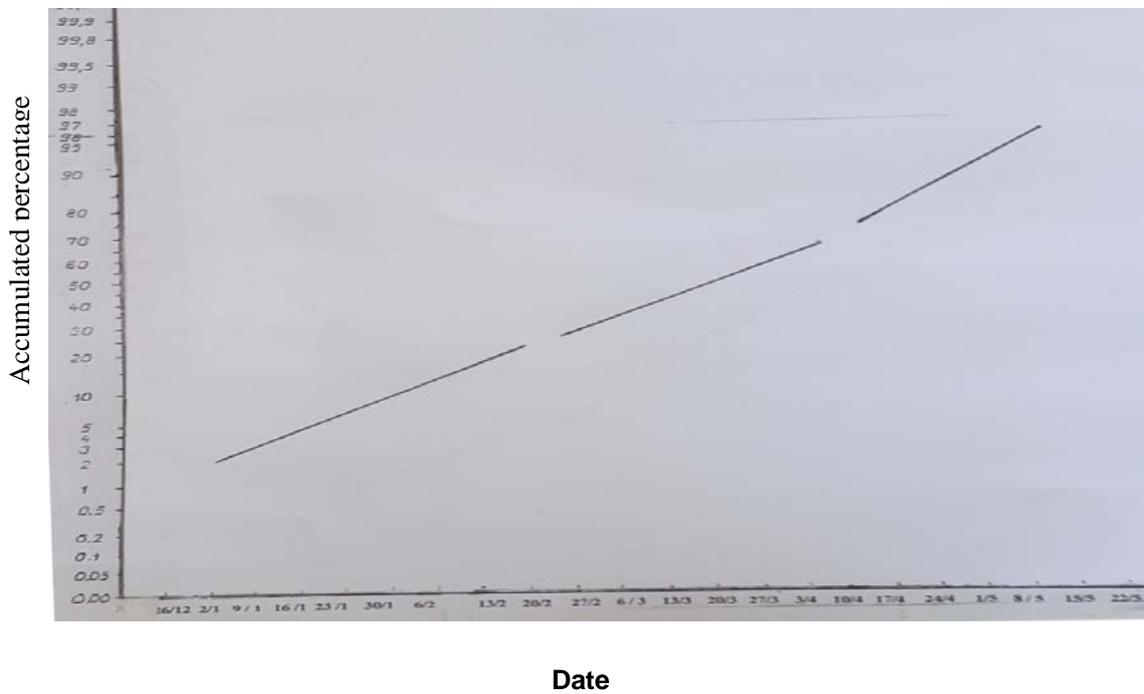
## 3) Larvae

Data given in Figs. (5 and 6) and Table (5) showed three generations of *C. vittata* larvae for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons on sugar beet plants. The first generation was started at 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January in both seasons and continued to 8 weeks until 22<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February during first and second seasons, respectively. The second generation was appeared at 29<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February in both seasons and continued to 6 and 7 weeks until 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April during first and second seasons, respectively. The third generation was appeared at 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April in both seasons and continued to 5 weeks until 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May during first and second seasons, respectively.

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**Fig. (3): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (eggs) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 season. Accumulated percentage.**



**Fig. (4): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (eggs) in Sharkia Governorate during 2016/2017 season. during January. The population density of eggs, larvae and adults markedly**

Table (4): The annual generation of *C. vittata* (eggs) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 and 2016 /2017 seasons.

| Generation number | 2015/2016                    |                              |                   |            |       | 2016/2017                    |                              |                   |            |       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|
|                   | Duration                     |                              | Duration in weeks | Total Eggs |       | Duration                     |                              | Duration in weeks | Total Eggs |       |
|                   | From                         | To                           |                   | Number     | %     | From                         | To                           |                   | Number     | %     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup> of January   | 15 <sup>th</sup> of February | 7 weeks           | 137        | 20    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> of January   | 20 <sup>th</sup> of February | 8 weeks           | 146        | 20.65 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 22 <sup>th</sup> of February | 28 <sup>th</sup> of March    | 6 weeks           | 292        | 42.63 | 27 <sup>th</sup> of February | 10 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 7 weeks           | 315        | 44.55 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup> of April     | 9 <sup>th</sup> of May       | 6 weeks           | 220        | 32.12 | 17 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 15 <sup>th</sup> of May      | 5 weeks           | 225        | 31.82 |

Generally, the *C. vittata* adults, eggs and larvae were recorded three generations, second generation was highest one.

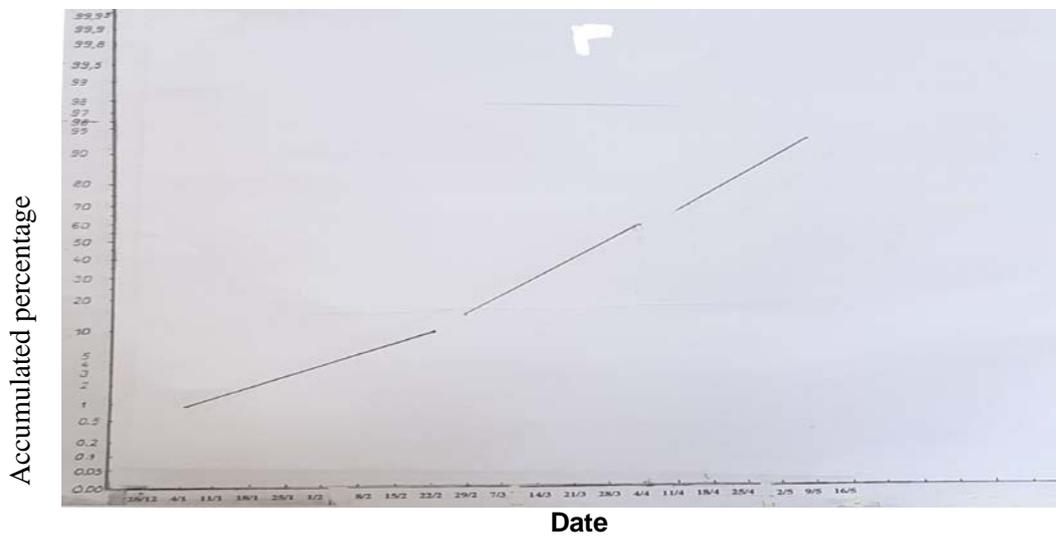


Fig. (5): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (larvae) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 season.

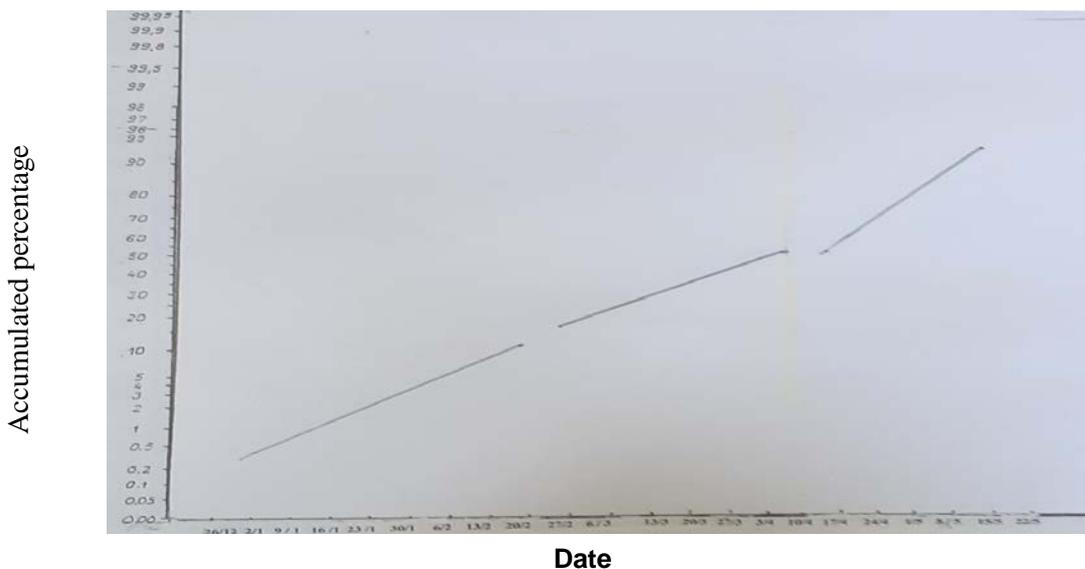


Fig. (6): Annual generation of *C. vittata* (larvae) in Sharkia Governorate during 2016/2017 season.

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Table (5): The annual generation of *C. vittata* (larvae) in Sharkia Governorate during 2015/2016 and 2016 /2017 seasons.

| Generation number | 2015/2016                    |                              |                   |              |       | 2016/2017                    |                              |                   |              |       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
|                   | Duration                     |                              | Duration in weeks | Total larvae |       | Duration                     |                              | Duration in weeks | Total larvae |       |
|                   | From                         | To                           |                   | Number       | %     | From                         | To                           |                   | Number       | %     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup> of January   | 22 <sup>th</sup> of February | 8 weeks           | 172          | 10.96 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> of January   | 20 <sup>th</sup> of February | 8 weeks           | 168          | 12.95 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 29 <sup>th</sup> of February | 4 <sup>th</sup> of April     | 6 weeks           | 807          | 51.40 | 27 <sup>th</sup> of February | 10 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 7 weeks           | 479          | 36.93 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 11 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 9 <sup>th</sup> of May       | 5 weeks           | 539          | 34.33 | 17 <sup>th</sup> of April    | 15 <sup>th</sup> of May      | 5 weeks           | 595          | 45.88 |

Abo-Saied Ahmed (1987) found that the adults of *C. vittata* appeared in sugar beet field in February and in December. The population densities of larvae and adults gradually increased as sugar beet becomes older and highest densities were recorded during April and May. Metwally *et al.*, (1987) mentioned that *C. vittata* was among the insect species, which were abundant on the sugar beet. The insect appeared in January and its population densities increased until reaching high levels during April, May and June. Abo-Aiana (1991) recorded that few numbers of *C. vittata* adults increased from March towards the end of sugar beet growing season.

Awadalla *et al.*, (1991) stated that *C. vittata* was recorded from mid-November until mid-April in 1989/90 and from early January until the end of the April (1990/91). Salama and Elnagar (1992) indicated that the insect had a single annual generation during March-May. Early plantings had the lowest population density and therefore planting during August. Youssef (1994) stated that in September plantation, the *C. vittata* appeared from January to April. While in December plantation the beetle appeared from February until June. The different stages had two peaks of abundance in the two seasons. Bassyouny and Bleih

(1996) showed that *C. vittata* appeared in mid-January for all plantations during 1993/94 season, while it appeared earlier in December of 1994/95 season except in September plantation. Abd-El-Kareim and Awadalla (1998) indicated that all developmental stages of *C. vittata* gradually increased from March towards the end of sugar beet growing season. They recorded two peaks of immature stages, the first in March and the second in May, the highest peak of the adult stage was found in April and sharply declined in May and June. Bassyouny (1998) reported that the highest number of *C. vittata* was recorded on sugar beet plants of both mid-September and late-October plantations, while early plantation (August) received the lowest number especially at late season. Sherief *et al.*, (2013) showed that in the first and the second season, two peaks of both larvae and adult stages El-Dessouki *et al.*, (2014) showed *C. vittata* larvae had two peaks in both seasons during late February and late March in the first season and during early and mid-April in the second season. Khalifa, Amany (2017) Showed that sugar beet plants of August and September plantations suffered very low infestation with *C. vittata* larvae and adults. However, the highest insect population density was

detected in October plantation; with values of larvae and adults in the first and second seasons. It was obvious that *C. vittata* population density was very high during March, April and May in sugar beet plants of October plantation.

**3. Seasonal fluctuations of some predators associated with *C. vittata***

Results in Tables (6 and 7) indicated that the number of predator insects (*C. carnea*, *C. undecimpunctata*, *P. alfieri* and true spiders) had one peak during the two seasons. The peak of *C. undecimpunctata* and *P. alfieri* (13 and 31

individual / 25 plants) was occurred in 21<sup>th</sup> of March for the first season and the total number (22 and 27 individual / 25 plants) was occurred in 20<sup>th</sup> of March for the second season, respectively. The peak of *C. carnea* was recorded in 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March with a total numbers of 24 and 29 individual / 25 plants for the two seasons, respectively. While The peak of true spiders was recorded in 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April with a total numbers of 28 and 34 individual / 25 plants for the two seasons, respectively. The numbers of *Scymnus* sp was decreased for the two seasons.

Table (6): Weekly number of the predators associated with tortoise beetle *C. vittata* infesting sugar beet plants at Sharkia Governorate during during 2015/2016 season.

| Date  | Number of predators/ 25 plants |                  |                    |                   |              |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|       | <i>C. undecimpunctata</i>      | <i>C. carnea</i> | <i>Scymnus</i> sp. | <i>P. alfieri</i> | True spiders |
| 14\12 | 0                              | 0                | 0                  | 0                 | 0            |
| 21\12 | 1                              | 1                | 2                  | 0                 | 2            |
| 28\12 | 0                              | 1                | 3                  | 2                 | 3            |
| 4\1   | 2                              | 0                | 1                  | 1                 | 5            |
| 11\1  | 1                              | 1                | 0                  | 2                 | 5            |
| 18\1  | 1                              | 0                | 1                  | 5                 | 4            |
| 25\1  | 2                              | 3                | 2                  | 4                 | 6            |
| 1\2   | 3                              | 6                | 0                  | 5                 | 7            |
| 8\2   | 1                              | 5                | 2                  | 7                 | 8            |
| 15\2  | 2                              | 6                | 3                  | 8                 | 6            |
| 22\2  | 4                              | 8                | 2                  | 6                 | 7            |
| 29\2  | 5                              | 10               | 1                  | 10                | 8            |
| 7\3   | 8                              | 16               | 0                  | 13                | 9            |
| 14\3  | 9                              | 24               | 0                  | 16                | 9            |
| 21\3  | 13                             | 12               | 2                  | 31                | 12           |
| 28\3  | 6                              | 7                | 1                  | 10                | 15           |
| 4\4   | 4                              | 4                | 1                  | 8                 | 17           |
| 11\4  | 1                              | 2                | 2                  | 5                 | 28           |
| 18\4  | 2                              | 3                | 1                  | 3                 | 11           |
| 25\4  | 0                              | 1                | 1                  | 4                 | 7            |
| 2\5   | 1                              | 1                | 2                  | 2                 | 3            |
| 9\5   | 1                              | 2                | 1                  | 1                 | 2            |
| 16\5  | 0                              | 1                | 0                  | 1                 | 1            |

### Seasonal fluctuations and generations number of tortoise beetle, *cassida* ...

Table (7): Weekly number of the predacious insects associated with tortoise beetle *C. vittata* infesting sugar beet plants at Sharkia Governorate during during 2016/2017 seasons.

| Date  | Number of predators/ 25 plants |                  |                    |                    |              |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|       | <i>C. undecimpunctata</i>      | <i>C. carnea</i> | <i>Scymnus sp.</i> | <i>P. alfierii</i> | True spiders |
| 12\12 | 0                              | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 0            |
| 19\12 | 1                              | 2                | 0                  | 0                  | 2            |
| 26\12 | 2                              | 1                | 1                  | 0                  | 3            |
| 2\1   | 0                              | 0                | 1                  | 2                  | 3            |
| 9\1   | 2                              | 3                | 0                  | 1                  | 5            |
| 16\1  | 1                              | 4                | 2                  | 3                  | 4            |
| 23\1  | 1                              | 5                | 1                  | 2                  | 3            |
| 30\1  | 2                              | 6                | 0                  | 4                  | 6            |
| 6\2   | 3                              | 6                | 3                  | 6                  | 6            |
| 13\2  | 5                              | 9                | 1                  | 7                  | 5            |
| 20\2  | 7                              | 8                | 2                  | 9                  | 7            |
| 27\2  | 6                              | 15               | 4                  | 9                  | 6            |
| 6\3   | 8                              | 20               | 3                  | 13                 | 5            |
| 13\3  | 11                             | 29               | 2                  | 16                 | 7            |
| 20\3  | 22                             | 10               | 1                  | 27                 | 8            |
| 27\3  | 9                              | 8                | 0                  | 15                 | 9            |
| 3\4   | 6                              | 7                | 1                  | 9                  | 13           |
| 10\4  | 3                              | 5                | 2                  | 7                  | 15           |
| 17\4  | 2                              | 6                | 2                  | 5                  | 34           |
| 24\4  | 2                              | 3                | 4                  | 3                  | 12           |
| 1\5   | 3                              | 4                | 2                  | 4                  | 7            |
| 8\5   | 1                              | 1                | 1                  | 1                  | 4            |
| 15\5  | 1                              | 0                | 1                  | 2                  | 1            |
| 22\5  | 0                              | 1                | 0                  | 1                  | 2            |

Abo Saied Ahmed (1987) in Egypt recorded ten predators belonging to 5 orders and 6 families in sugar beet fields. He encountered *Coccinella* spp. from March to June while *Scymnus* sp. was encountered from November to June. Mesbah (1991) who found that the population of coccinellid predators started to increase in March and April. Youssef (1994) reported that three distinct peaks of *P. alfierii*, two peaks of coccinellid predators and two peaks of *C. carnea* were recorded in September. El-

Agamy *et al* (1996) in Egypt found that the abundance of coccinellids, *P. alfierii* and *C. carnea* in sugar-beet fields reached their maximum populations during April in September plantation and throughout May-June in December plantation. Shalaby (2001) observed that the population density of coccinellids was high during March, April and May and the population density of *C. carnea* was the highest in September plantation. El-Khouly (2006) found that the changes in the population densities of the

predacious insects; *C. undecimpunctata*, *P. alfieri* and *C. carnea* coincided with the population densities of the tested pests *P. mixta* and *C. vittata*. Sherief *et al.*, (2013) showed that about natural enemies *C. undecimpunctata* and *C. carnea* appeared in November but *P. alfieri* was observed during January in both seasons The peaks of the studied predacious insects occurred in February. Khalifa, Amany (2017) reported the predatory coccinellids were more detected in the first plantation (3.44 – 7.08 adults/25 sugar beet plants) and the second plantation (2.00 – 3.21 adults/25 sugar beet plants). Other than coccinellid predators *P. alfieri*. and *Orius* sp., were surveyed.

#### 4. Effect of maximum, minimum temperature and relative humidity on the number of *C. vittata* infesting sugar beet plants

##### 1) Adults

The results in Table (8) showed that the correlation coefficient between adults and maximum temperature was positively high significant and significant (0.8545\*\*\* and 0.5214\*) in the two seasons, respectively. The correlation coefficient between larvae and minimum temperature was positively high significant (0.8363\*\*\* and 0.5432\*\*) in the

two seasons, respectively. While, relative humidity was negatively high significant and insignificant (- 0.7834\*\*\* and - 0.2227) in the two seasons, respectively.

##### 2) Eggs

The results in Table (8) obtained that the correlation coefficient between eggs and maximum temperature was positively high significant (0.5392\*\* and 0.5511\*\*) in the two seasons, respectively. The number of eggs was positively significant and high significant with minimum temperature (0.5118\* and 0.5471\*\*) in the two seasons, respectively. While, relative humidity was negatively significant and insignificant (-0.4573\* and - 0.1931) in the two seasons, respectively.

##### 3) Larvae

The results in Table (8) obtained that the correlation coefficient between larvae and maximum temperature was positively high significant (0.5339\*\* and 0.6919\*\*\*) in the two seasons, respectively. The correlation coefficient between larvae and minimum temperature was positively high significant (0.5491\*\* and 0.7006\*\*\*) in the two seasons, respectively. While, relative humidity was negatively high significant and significant (- 0.5678\*\* and -0.4839\*) in the two seasons, respectively.

Table (8): Simple correlation coefficients (r) between the means of (maximum, minimum temperature and relative humidity) and total numbers of *C. vittata* infesting sugar beet plants during 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons.

| <i>C. vittata</i> | Simple correlation coefficients |            |            |            |            |           | Explained variance % |           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|                   | 2015/2016                       |            |            | 2016/2017  |            |           | R <sup>2</sup>       |           |
|                   | Max. temp.                      | Min. temp. | R.H. %     | Max. temp. | Min. temp. | R.H. %    | 2015/2016            | 2016/2017 |
| Adults            | 0.8545***                       | 0.8363***  | -0.7834*** | 0.5214*    | 0.5432**   | - 0.2227  | 77.78                | 33.43     |
| Eggs              | 0.5392**                        | 0.5118*    | - 0.4573*  | 0.5511**   | 0.5471**   | - 0.1931  | 31.27                | 37.31     |
| Larvae            | 0.5339**                        | 0.5491**   | -0.5678**  | 0.6919***  | 0.7006***  | - 0.4839* | 31.27                | 49.99     |

**5. Combined effects of meteorological factors on the numbers of *C. vittata* (eggs, larvae and adults).**

The effect of (maximum and minimum) temperatures and mean relative humidity on *C. vittata* (adults, eggs and larvae) numbers were estimated by calculating the partial regression analysis. E.V. % values Table (8) demonstrated that the eggs, larvae and adults population of *C. vittata* in the two seasons E.V.% values of 77.78 % and 33.43 % (adults), E.V % values of 31.27 % and 37.31 % (eggs) and E.V.% values of 31.27 % and 49.99 % (larvae) for the two seasons, respectively.

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التقلبات الموسمية وعدد الاجيال لخنفساء البنجر السلحفائية التي تصيب نباتات البنجر  
وبعض المفترسات المصاحبة في محافظة الشرقية - مصر

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الملخص العربى

التقلبات الموسمية وعدد الاجيال للحشرات الكاملة وبيض ويرقات خنفساء البنجر التي تصيب نباتات البنجر في منطقة ديرب نجم ، محافظة الشرقية والتقلبات الموسمية لبعض المفترسات المصاحبة (أبو العيد وأسد المن والحشرة الرواغة والاسكمنس والعناكب الحقيقية) وجد للحشرات الكاملة لخنفساء البنجر قمتين نشاط ،القمة الاولى فى يوم ١١ من شهر ابريل بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ٢ من شهر مايو للموسم الاول وفى الموسم الثانى ظهرت القمة الاولى فى يوم ٣ من شهر ابريل بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ١ من شهر مايو وجد ليرقات خنفساء البنجر قمتين نشاط ،القمة الاولى فى يوم ٢١ من شهر مارس بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ٢ من شهر مايو للموسم الاول وفى الموسم الثانى ظهرت القمة الاولى فى يوم ٢٠ من شهر مارس بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ١ من شهر مايو وكان لبيض خنفساء البنجر قمتين نشاط~ القمة الاولى فى يوم ٧ من شهر مارس بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ٤ من شهر ابريل للموسم الاول وفى الموسم الثانى ظهرت القمة الاولى فى يوم ٦ من شهر مارس بينما القمة الثانية فى يوم ١٧ من شهر ابريل . ولقد وجد ان للحشرات الكاملة وبيض ويرقات خنفساء البنجر ثلاث اجيال للموسمين . ووجد قمة نشاط واحدة فى يوم ٢١ من مارس وفى ٢٠ من مارس لابو العيد و الرواغة خلال الموسمين وسجلت قمة نشاط واحدة لاسد المن فى يوم ١٤ من شهر مارس وفى يوم ١٣ من شهر مارس خلال الموسمين. وسجلت قمة نشاط واحدة للعناكب الحقيقية فى يوم ١١ من شهر ابريل وفى يوم ١٧ من شهر ابريل خلال الموسمين وحشرات الاسكمنس كانت اقل تعداد خلال الموسمين. وتم دراسة العلاقة بين تعداد الحشرات الكاملة وبيض ويرقات خنفساء البنجر وكل من درجة الحرارة العظمى و الصغرى والرطوبة النسبية.

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