
Population Fluctuation and Determination of The Economic Injury Level and The Economic Threshold for The Sugarbeet Fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis, in Nobaria Region, El-Behaira Governorate, Egypt.

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ABSTRACT: Experiments were conducted in a private farm cultivated with sugarbeet crop (Top cv.) for the two successive seasons of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 to determine the economic damage threshold levels of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis (Diptera: Anthomyidae) under field conditions in Nobaria region, El-Behaira Governorate, Egypt. The results showed that the relationship between the yield of sugarbeet and the infestation of sugarbeet fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis (*Pegomyia mixta* Vill.) was negative, which means that an increase in larvae numbers caused a decrease in roots yield and vice-versa.

In both seasons, *Pegomyia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae registered two seasonal peaks of abundance that occurred in February and March.

The determined economic threshold level for *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis was 19 larvae / plant and the economic injury level was 22 larvae / plant in the first season. But the values were 21 larvae / plant and 22 larvae / plant, in respect, in the second season.

Key words: Sugarbeet (*Beta vulgaris* L.), sugarbeet fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis, *Pegomyia mixta* Vill., Economic threshold (ET_s), the economic injury level (EIL_s) and roots yield.

INTRODUCTION

Sugarbeet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) is considered to be the second crop for sugar production in Egypt after the sugarcane crop (*Saccharum officinarum* L.) since 1982. The area under cultivation has been estimated by 16,000 feddans that participated in 2.5 % of the total production of sugar. Whereas, in 2013 the cultivated area increased upto 423,000 feddans with 53.10 % sugar. Therefore, Sugarbeet crop became the first source of sugar production in Egypt (**El-shafei, 2014**)

The gap between consumption and production of sugar was 5000 tons (**Afifi, 2001**). Thus, increasing the area and yield of sugarbeet were important goals of the ministry of agriculture. The importance of this crop is not only to produce sugar, but also to use its diets in feeding animals due to the high nutritive value of sugarbeet leaves. In addition, sugarbeet thrives well in poor, saline, alkaline and calcareous soils, especially in the newly reclaimed soils.

However, the average yield of sugarbeet was 20.3 tons / feddan that could be increased upto 40 tons / Fed. It is well known that the high yield of any crop is the final goal. Pests' infestation is the main limiting factor, which affect the yield quantitatively as well as qualitatively.

Sugarbeet plants attract more than 150 insect species and mites. The sugarbeet fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis (*Pegomyia mixta* Vill.) is one of the most

serious insect pests of sugarbeet plants (**Zarif and Hegazi, 1990 and Cooke and Scott, 1993**), so sugar beet growers frequently apply chemical compounds with little knowledge of pest numbers and economic levels. Development of a pest management strategy requires establishment of an economic injury levels (EIL_s) and an economic threshold (ET_s) which relate yield losses and insect control expenses to pest infestation level (**Luckmann and Metcalf, 1975**). For the important of economic levels in insect pests' controls, several researchers investigated economic levels of some insect pests attacking sugarbeet fields (**Cooke and Scott, 1993; Bassyouny, 1998 and Mesbah, 2000**).

The present investigation aimed to study the population fluctuation of the sugarbeet fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis (*Pegomyia mixta* Vill.), assessment of quantitative, as well as, qualitative yield losses and determination of the economic injury level (EIL_s) and the economic thresholds (ET_s) for the considered insect pest during 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 seasons in Nobarria region, El-Behaira Governorate.

Such objectives could be considered as prerequisite steps for initiating the so-called integrated pest management "IPM".

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The study site

An area about 157.5 m² included in a private farm in Nobarria region, 84 Km South West of Alexandria city, cultivated with sugarbeet (Top cv.) for the two successive seasons of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

Experimental design

The experiments were carried out to study the population fluctuation and determine both the economic injury levels (EILs) and the economic thresholds (ET_s) for the sugarbet fly, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis. The experimental area was subdivided into 15 plots (replicates) of 10.5 m² (3×3.5 m), each representing the four cardinal directions. Weekly samples (reading) of 3 plants / replicate were chosen, randomly, to record the number of larvae of the assigned insect pest. All plants received the same agricultural practices throughout the course of this study, with no insecticidal sprays.

Determination of the economic injury levels and the economic thresholds (EIL_s and ET_s) of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis infesting sugarbeet plants

Both the EILs and ETs were determined according to the techniques of (**Sherief et al., 2009 and Amal, 2013**) as follows:

Values of yield per plant were characterized with the straight line equation: $\hat{Y} = a + bx$ (**Golden, 1960**): where, \hat{Y} = expected yield, a = intercept, b = slope of the regression line and x = the number of (*Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis and designing the regression line by Chi - X^2 to calculate both the economic threshold (ET) and the economic injury levels (EIL). The populations of the insect pest were

done and the simple correlation coefficient (r) was calculated between any two characters (x and y), each with number of observations as follows:

$$\hat{Y} = a + bx$$

$$a = \bar{y} - bx'$$

$$b = \frac{\sum xy - \frac{(\sum x)(\sum y)}{n}}{(\sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{n})}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum x \times p_i - (\sum x \times p')}{P' \times q'}$$

$$P_i = \frac{x}{R}$$

x = mean number of larvae.

R = size of sample (mean number of leaves during the growing season).

$$p' = \frac{\sum p}{n}$$

$$q' = 1 - p'$$

n = number of plants in replicates.

$$r = \frac{(\sum xy - \frac{(\sum x)(\sum y)}{n})}{\sqrt{(\sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{n}) (\sum y^2 - \frac{(\sum y)^2}{n})}}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Population fluctuation of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* larvae in sugarbeet fields during the first season of 2013/2014

Results revealed that sugarbeet plants were attacked by the sugarbeet fly under field conditions during the first season of 2013/2014. The listed results in **Table (1)** elucidated the seasonal fluctuations of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis on sugarbeet plants during the first season of 2013/2014. Results showed that *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae have been occurred throughout the period from late December till mid-April on sugarbeet plants during the first season, but in the second season larvae were noticed from late December till the 2nd week of April (**Table 3**), this extended period might be due to the environmental factors. The seasonal fluctuations of the insect population density, *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis, referred to two peaks during the both seasons.

In the first season of 2013/2014, the first appearance of 6 larvae / 15 sample on the 4th week of December. Two peaks were achieved on the 2nd week of February and mid-March in the first season with means of 54 and 46 larvae / 15 replicates, respectively, followed by a considerable decline in the mean larval populations (**Table 1**).

Table (1). Weekly mean number of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobaria region during the first season of 2013/2014.

Weekly inspection		Mean number of larvae / 3 plants															Total
		N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15	
November 2013	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December 2013	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
January 2014	1 st	1	2	3	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	18
	2 nd	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	22
	3 rd	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	28
	4 th	2	3	4	2	2	3	1	2	1	3	4	1	3	3	2	36
February 2014	1 st	3	3	5	2	3	3	1	2	1	3	4	1	4	3	2	40
	2 nd	6	3	5	2	5	3	3	2	3	5	4	3	5	3	2	54
	3 rd	4	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	2	48
	4 th	2	3	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	32
March 2014	1 st	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	26
	2 nd	3	3	5	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	46
	3 rd	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	29
	4 th	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	21
April 2014	1 st	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
	2 nd	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2014	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		29	35	48	25	34	27	15	22	19	33	28	19	31	26	24	415
Yield (Kg)		1.2	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.8	1.7	2.6	1.9	2.4	0.8	1.4	2.5	1.0	1.7	1.8	

Determination of the economic injury level and the economic threshold for *Pegomia hyo-scyami* infesting sugarbeet plants during the first season of 2013/2014

As seen in **Table (2)** and illustrated in **Fig (1)**, the obtained data evaluated that during the season of 2013/2014, upto 19 larvae / plant were observed. The value (5.18) of χ^2 expressed insignificant yield reduction that ranged from 2.4 to 2.5 kg / plant as a result of no change in the infestation rate of 19 larvae / plant, while the χ^2 value (21.12*) became significant as the numbers reached 22 larvae / plant. In other words, when number of individuals / plant reached 22 (EIL_s) significant drop in yield occurred and the value before 19 could be considered as an economic threshold (ET). The relationship between the yield and the infestation was negative, with a coefficient $r = -0.9214$ and coefficient regression $b = -0.0758$.

Table (2). Economic injury level (EIL_s) of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobarria region during the first season of 2013/2014.

Number of plant	Number of larvae / replicate	Yield (Kg)	Modified \hat{Y}	Size sample	P	X x P	$\chi^2 = \frac{(\sum x \times p_i - \sum x \times p)^2}{\sum x \times p}$	χ^2
								Table
	X	Y	Y	R	=X/R			5%
1	15	2.6	2.49	20	0.750	11.250	0.00	3.84
2	19	2.5	2.18	20	0.950	18.050	3.14	5.99
3	19	2.4	2.18	20	0.950	18.050	5.18	7.82
4	22	1.9	1.96	20	1.100	24.200	21.12	9.49
5	24	1.8	1.80	20	1.200	28.800	236.36	11.07
6	25	1.8	1.73	20	1.250	31.250	-100.65	12.59
7	26	1.7	1.65	20	1.300	33.800	-61.23	14.07
8	27	1.7	1.58	20	1.350	36.450	-51.42	15.51
9	28	1.4	1.50	20	1.400	39.200	-47.91	16.92
10	29	1.2	1.43	20	1.450	42.050	-46.86	18.31
11	31	1.0	1.27	20	1.550	48.050	-48.48	19.68
12	33	0.8	1.12	20	1.650	54.450	-51.93	21.03
13	34	0.8	1.05	20	1.700	57.800	-55.04	22.36
14	35	0.7	0.97	20	1.750	61.250	-57.99	23.69
15	48	0.6	-0.02	20	2.400	115.200	-86.31	25.00
Sum	415	22.90						

$r = -0.9214$

$a = 3.6263$

$b = -0.0758$

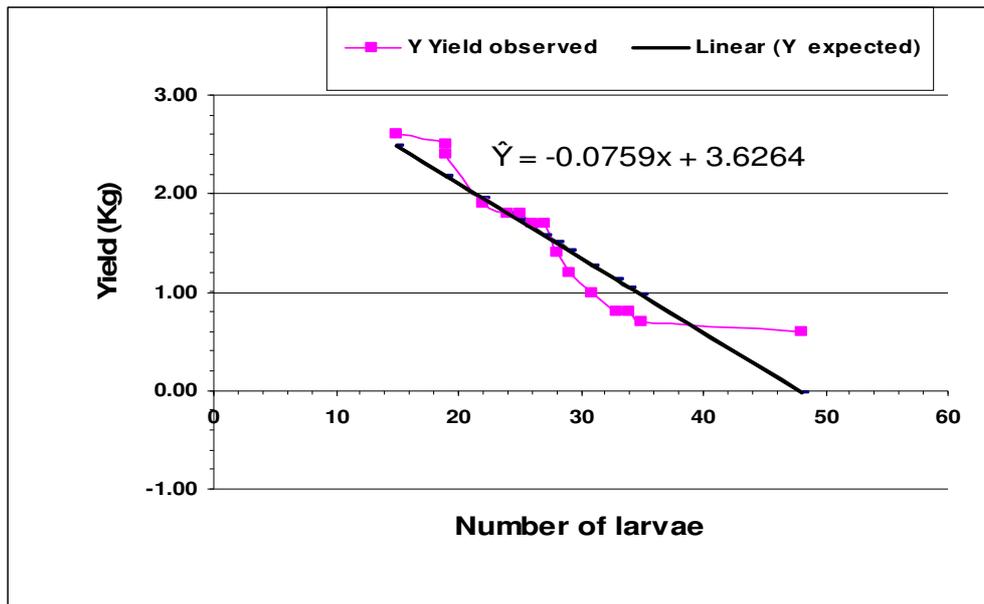


Fig (1). Regressing yield (Kg) against number of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobaria region during the first season of 2013/2014.

Population fluctuation of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* larvae in sugarbeet fields during the second season of 2014/2015

In the second season of 2014/2015, the first appearance of 9 larvae / plant corresponded to the 4th week of December. Two peaks were observed at late February and mid-March, which represented by 42 and 41 larvae / 15 samples, respectively, with considerable decline in larval populations afterwards (**Table 3**).

Table (3). Weekly mean number of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobaria region during the second season of 2014/2015.

Weekly inspection	Mean number of larvae / 3 plants															Total	
	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10	N11	N12	N13	N14	N15		
November 2014	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December 2014	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	9
January 2015	1 st	0	2	1	1	2	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	18
	2 nd	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	24
	3 rd	1	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	30
	4 th	2	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	30
February 2015	1 st	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	37
	2 nd	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	32
	3 rd	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	28
	4 th	2	2	3	1	4	3	4	2	5	4	2	3	2	2	3	42
March 2015	1 st	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	22
	2 nd	2	2	5	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	41
	3 rd	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	30
	4 th	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	18
April 2015	1 st	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	11
	2 nd	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2015	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	20	27	35	21	31	29	30	19	34	24	19	18	25	22	26	380	
Yield (Kg)	2.1	1.4	0.6	2.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	2.4	0.7	1.7	2.5	2.6	1.7	1.9	1.5		

Determination of the economic injury level and the economic threshold for *Pegomia hyo-scyami* infesting sugarbeet plants during the second season of 2014/2015

Data listed in **Table (4)** and **Fig (2)** cleared that during the season of 2014/2015 insignificant reduction occurred in yield from 2.1 to 2.0 kg / plant as a result of increasing the number of larvae / plant from 20 to 21 while, when the number of larvae per plant raised upto 22, the χ^2 value (65.55*) witnessed significance. In other words, when number of larvae / plant reached 22 (EIL) significant drop in yield occurred and the value before 21 could be taken as an economic threshold (ET). The relationship between the yield and the infestation was also negative, similar to the first season, with a coefficient $r = -0.9860$ and coefficient regression $b = -0.1178$.

Table (4). Economic injury level (EIL_s) of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobaria region during the second season of 2014/2015.

Number of plant	Number of larvae / replicate	Yield (Kg)	Modified \wedge	Size sample	P	X x P	$\chi^2 = \frac{(\sum x \times p_i - \sum x \times p) / p_i \times q}{\sum x \times p}$	χ^2 Table 5%
1	18	2.6	2.46	20	0.900	16.200	0.00	3.84
2	19	2.5	2.34	20	0.950	18.050	0.36	5.99
3	19	2.4	2.34	20	0.950	18.050	0.54	7.82
4	20	2.1	2.22	20	1.000	20.000	2.11	9.49
5	21	2.0	2.10	20	1.050	22.050	8.93	11.07
6	22	1.9	1.99	20	1.100	24.200	65.55	12.59
7	24	1.7	1.75	20	1.200	28.800	-58.74	14.07
8	25	1.7	1.63	20	1.250	31.250	-41.90	15.51
9	26	1.5	1.51	20	1.300	33.800	-39.50	16.92
10	27	1.4	1.40	20	1.350	36.450	-40.03	18.31
11	29	1.0	1.16	20	1.450	42.050	-43.94	19.68
12	30	1.0	1.04	20	1.500	45.000	-47.49	21.03
13	31	0.8	0.93	20	1.550	48.050	-50.91	22.36
14	34	0.7	0.57	20	1.700	57.800	-58.25	23.69
15	35	0.6	0.45	20	1.750	61.250	-64.14	25.00
Sum	380	23.90						

$r = -0.9860$

$a = 4.5787$

$b = -0.1178$

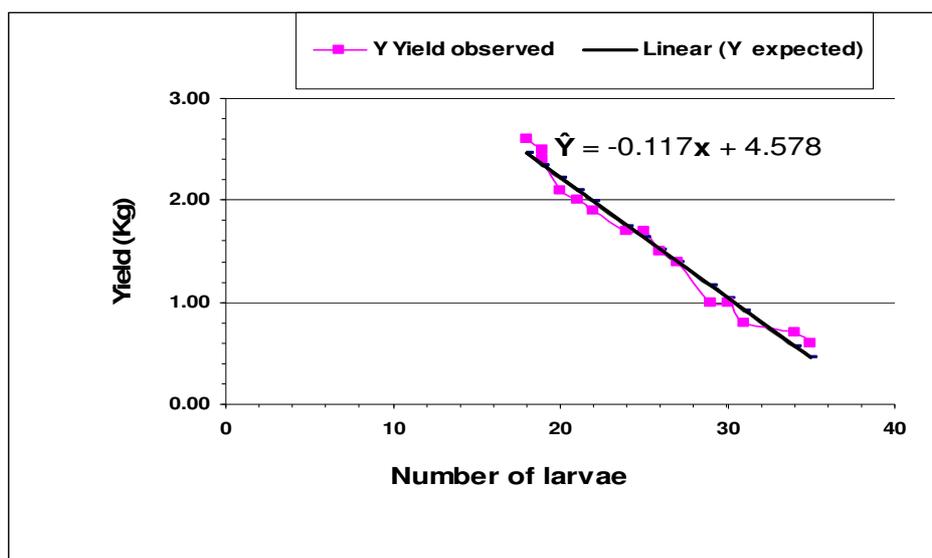


Fig (2). Regressing yield (Kg) against number of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis larvae / sample infesting sugarbeet (Top cv.) under the field conditions at Nobaria region during the second season of 2014/2015.

The obtained findings of the present study were in harmony with the findings of others such as **Youssef (1994)** and **Ebieda (1997)** who stated that *Pegomia mixta* was commonly found in sugarbeet more than other crops, causing a considerable reduction in yield. In this respect, **Bassyouny (1998)** found that the late plantation of sugarbeet in October was severely attacked by *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis.

EI-Khouly (2006) showed that the abundance of *Pegomia mixta* was associated with the reliable occurrence of their natural enemies. He also, referred that three seasonal peaks of *Pegomia mixta* were recorded and declared that the initial appearance of *Pegomia mixta* survivors occurred in April 2005 and 2006.

Mohisen (2012) stated that larvae of *Pegomia mixta* attacked sugarbeet plantations from November until late February, and reached its maximum abundance during spring i.e. from March to May in Kafr El-sheikh governorate. **EI-Dessouki et al. (2014)** mentioned that larvae of *Pegomia mixta* recorded three peaks of seasonal abundance in both seasons (2011 and 2012) during late December, early February and mid-March in the first season of 2011 and during mid-December, late January and mid-March in the second season of 2012.

Accordingly, all the earlier results on of *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis populations were in accordance with those obtained in this study, in the sense that the pest abundance occurred in February and March.

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الملخص العربي

التذبذبات العددية وتحديد مستوى الضرر الإقتصادي والحدالرج للإصابة بذبابة أوراق البنجر *Pegomia hyo-scyami* Curtis ، في منطقة النوبارية بمحافظة البحيرة ، مصر

عثمان أحمد زغلول * و مجدى عبدالظاهر مسعود * و حسن على عبدالحميد مصباح *

و جورج ظريف ** و رجب سبيته قنديل **

* كلية الزراعة سابا باشا- جامعة الأسكندرية - مصر .

** معهد بحوث وقاية النباتات - مركز البحوث الزراعية - مصر .

أجريت التجارب في مزرعة خاصة مزروعة بمحصول بنجر السكر صنف توب (Top cv.) لموسمين متتاليين ٢٠١٣/٢٠١٤ و ٢٠١٤/٢٠١٥ لتقدير الفاقد في المحصول وتحديد كلاً من الحد الحرج للإصابة (ETs) وأيضاً مستويات الضرر الإقتصادي (EILs) الناجمة عن الإصابة بحشرة ذبابة أوراق البنجر بمنطقة النوبارية بمحافظة البحيرة في مصر . ولقد أوضحت النتائج أن العلاقة بين محصول بنجر السكر والإصابة بذبابة أوراق البنجر كانت معنوية فكما زاد معدل الإصابة باليرقات قل المحصول بالتالي والعكس صحيح. وفي كلا موسمي الزراعة سجلت أعداد يرقات ذبابة أوراق البنجر قمتين Peaks في أشهر فبراير ومارس. كذلك وجد أن الحد الإقتصادي الحرج للإصابة بذبابة أوراق البنجر كان ١٩ يرقة لكل نبات ومستوى الضرر الإقتصادي والذي كان ٢٢ يرقة لكل نبات في الموسم الأول ؛ بينما الحد الإقتصادي الحرج للإصابة بذبابة أوراق البنجر كان ٢١ يرقة لكل نبات ومستوى الضرر الإقتصادي كان ٢٢ يرقة لكل نبات في الموسم الثاني.

