

**First Record of the Beet Moth *Phthorimeae ocellatella* (Boyd.)
(Gelechiidae: Lepidoptera) in Riyadh Area, Saudi Arabia**

M.M. Salem and A.Z. Al-Ahmadi

*Plant Protection Department, College of Agriculture, King Saud University,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

Considerable damage has been noticed in beet plantations at Al-Hayer, Al-Ammariyah and Al-Dirriyah during the autumn of 1990 and 1991. A small beet moth, identified as *Phthorimcae ocellatella* (Boyd.) proved to be responsible for such damage.

The neonate larva is green with a dark head capsule which turns purplish-green. Each body segment bears a transverse row of red spots, the prothorax and the last abdominal segment are brown.

The adult moth is yellowish-grey, spotted with dark brown spots. Wing spread is 15 mm. The fringe of hair in fore-wings is long laterally and short at the end. Hind wings are entirely with long hair fringe. Body length is 5-7 mm.

The young larvae nibble the leaves while older larvae mine into the veins and gnaw galleries, 3 cm. long in the roots, allowing moulds and decaying bacteria to enter. Many plants are entirely exterminated by the larvae. Up to 28 larvae have been recovered from a single plant. Pupation may take place either in the galleries or between the bases of petioles. The pupae are enveloped in small silken cocoons.

As mentioned in the literature, the insect is a Mediterranean species. Its occurrence in Europe (Portugal, Spain, France and Italy); in Asia (Iran, USSR, Turkey, Iraq and Palestine); in Africa (Island of Madeira, Morocco and Egypt) is on record.



Fig. 5. Effect of temperature on viscosity of Banati pomegranate juices at different shear rates.

- A. Adult moth
- B. Damaged leaf
- C. Larva mine the petiole
- D. Pupa
- E. Parasitized pupa

Reference

- [1] Gentry, J.W. *Crop Insects of North East Africa-Southwest Asia*, Agric. handbook No. 273, Agr. Res. Service, U.S.D.A., 1965.

التسجيل الأول لفراشة البنجر *Phthorimeae Ocellatella* (Boyd.) بالمملكة العربية السعودية

مجدي محمد سالم و أحمد زياد الأحدي

قسم وقاية النبات، كلية الزراعة، جامعة الملك سعود

الرياض، المملكة العربية السعودية

ملخص البحث . سُوهدت أعراض إصابة شديدة بفراش البنجر *Phthorimeae ocellatella* (Boyd.) فصيلة Pyralidae رتبة حرشفية الأجنحة على نبات البنجر في مناطق الحائر، الدرعية، والعيارية خلال خريف ١٩٩٠/١٩٩١ م.

ويعتبر هذا هو التسجيل الأول لهذه الحشرة في المملكة العربية السعودية.