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Bean Thrips Identified

Caliothrips phaseoli Hood.

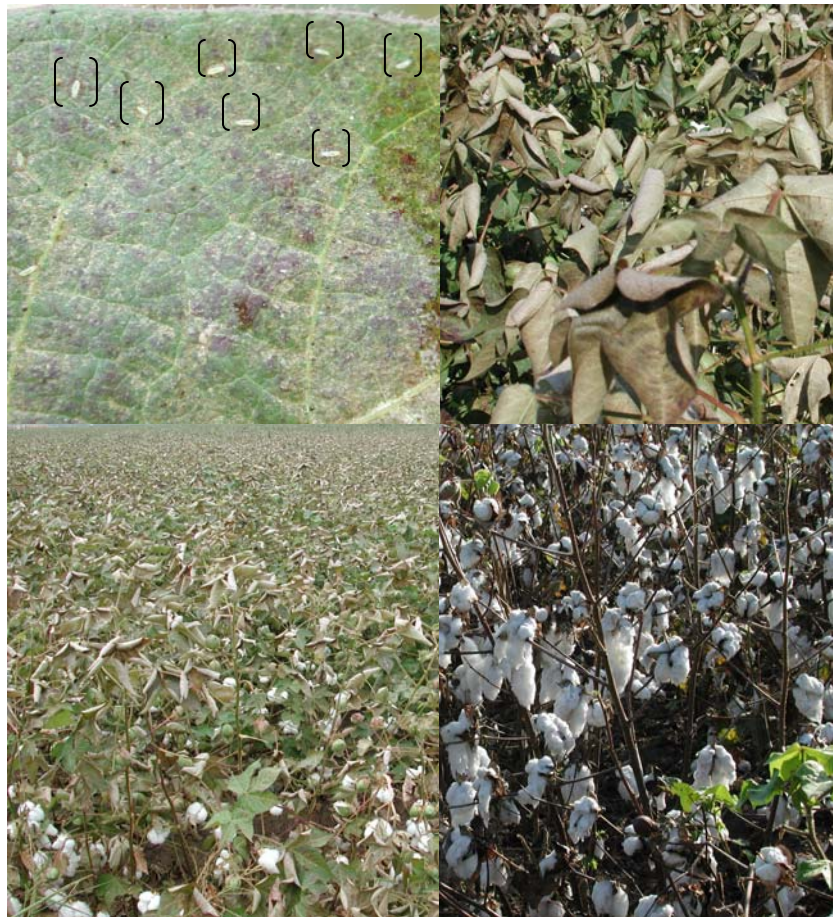
On July 2009 the Bean Thrips became an issue to cotton and soybean growers. An advisory was issued for producers. It was first observed on June 23rd on dryland cotton west of Lyford, TX. The species was unknown. Fellow Texas AgriLIFE IPM agents and Entomologists helped to identify the bean thrips species as *Caliothrips phaseoli* (Hood). Cotton producers may encounter this insect in 2010 season. We must be prepared in case of a sudden outbreak of this insect. Dr. Noel Troxclair assistant professor and Extension Entomologist has dealt with this thrips on cotton and peanut plants. Thrips do damage soybean leaves and pods as they are sucking insects. We must be vigilant since soybean production is popular among valley producers. Further scientific investigation is needed to determine the stage cotton is most susceptible to the bean thrips and economical impact it poses, especially for the Rio Grande Valley (RGV). This thrips may behave differently from other species of thrips commonly seen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Symptoms: Bean Thrips damage bears some resemblance to those of spider mite with the exception of bronzing effect on the plant canopy, the underside of the leaf reveals typical thrips rasping damage with a silvery-bronze appearance. Heavy infestation will cause premature defoliation of the plant even during late season production. The pictures, courtesy of Dr. Troxclair, show a cotton field damaged by *Caliothrips phaseoli* Hood, Dr. Troxclair who has studied this pest said “I saw this thrips completely defoliate cotton about a month early in 2003; it hit about a dozen fields in the Winter Garden”.

The upper left picture shows immature bean thrips in brackets on the upper section of the picture. The remaining pictures show leaf and field damage caused by bean thrips. Notice an upward curl and color change by this thrips.

Identification: The adult Bean Thrips is small, mostly black with several light bands on the wings. The nymphs are small, clear and fatter than the common thrips found in LRGV. A hand lens is required for proper identification. The adult bean thrips can be found on the top leaf area compared to the nymphs which can be found on both sides.

Control: In 2004, Dr. Troxclair ran a pesticide efficacy trial in Uvalde county to control the Bean thrips. Nine pesticides were used and the most effective at controlling *Caliothrips phaseoli* (Hood) insect was Warrior @ 0.02 lb a.i./A. Although this pesticide and application rate had an effective control in Dr. Troxclair study does not indicate it's effective in the RGV. Future studies of the bean thrips will have to be done to establish best IPM strategies.



The pictures on the left and center are the adult and the one on the far right are two immature bean thrips.



“Creepy Crawlers” Texas Redheaded Centipede **Order:** Scolopendromorpha (*Scolopendra heros* Girard). This centipede is one of the world’s largest centipede species and can grow to be 8 inches long. The head is red, segments can be dark blue, purple, or black with each body segment having a pair of yellow legs. Hides in decaying litter, under rocks and other dark moist crevices, and eats insects. It is active at night and is venomous which with it’s fierce looking mandible can produce an extremely painful bite. When it crawls across human skin the legs cause tiny incisions that secrete venom entering the wound causing irritation and inflammation. Some people may experience a severe allergic reaction and may need to seek medical attention.



Photo by Delyse Jaeger

References: <http://www.texasento.net/heros.htm>

<http://www.uark.edu/ua/arthmuse//sheros.html>

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