

**TEPHROSIA SEED INFESTATION AND LOSSES CAUSED BY THE LIMA-BEAN POD BORER ETIELLA ZINCKENELLA (TRET.)**

The Mayagüez Federal Experiment Station has been planting and collecting the seed of *Tephrosia vogellii* Hook. f. for several years at the Isabela Substation. Heavy infestation of pods of *T. toxicaria* by larvae of *Etiella zinckenella* (Tret.) has been reported several times.<sup>1</sup> The attack by this insect on *T. vogellii* apparently has not been recorded previously.

Three seed samples were collected and examined during the 1969 season (January, February, and March). The number of larvae present and the

**TABLE 1.—Infestation and losses of *Tephrosia vogellii* seeds, caused by *E. zinckenella*, Isabela, P.R., 1969**

Samples taken	Pods	Infested pods	Infestation	Damaged seed <sup>1</sup>	Larvae
<i>Date</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
1-31-69	94	68	72.2	37.63	61
2-20-69	100	87	87.0	52.10	60
3-26-69	100	93	93.0	71.20	36

<sup>1</sup> Based on the number of damaged seeds per pod.

number of damaged seeds were counted. Only *E. zinckenella* larvae were found. The data obtained is presented in table 1.

Rate of infestation and consequent losses obviously increase as the season progresses. Although the number of larvae had decreased by March, the damage was so heavy and seed recovery so low that the planting had to be destroyed.

Infestation began when the pods were maturing. Very young pods were not infested. Young larvae began feeding on pods in which one or more larvae already had matured; as many as four larvae were found feeding in a single pod.

*C. Cruz*  
*Isabela Substation*

<sup>1</sup> Plank, H. K., Mayagüez Federal Experiment Station, Reports: 74-1937, 71-1938, 108-1939.