

Study of Household Insect Pests and Their Control Methods

Madake Ganesh Rama

Department of Zoology

Sahakar Maharshi Bhausaheb Santuji Thorat Arts, Science and Commerce College, Sangamner, Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra, India.

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India
ganeshmadake1920@gmail.com

Abstract: Household insect pests are commonly found in human living spaces and play an important role in affecting hygiene, health, and overall living conditions. These pests survive easily in domestic environments because they get continuous access to food, water, shelter, and favorable temperature. The present study was conducted to understand the types of household insect pests, their occurrence, and the control practices followed by people in Sangamner. The study was carried out over five months from November to March in 25 selected houses. Information was collected through direct observation and interaction with residents. Different insect pests such as ants, cockroaches, mosquitoes, houseflies, termites, bed bugs, and silverfish were observed during the study. Samples were collected using simple techniques like hand collection, sticky traps, and nets, and were identified using visible characteristics. The results showed that pest occurrence varies depending on cleanliness, moisture, and food availability. Ants and cockroaches were mainly found in kitchens, mosquitoes near water sources, and houseflies near waste areas. Termites were associated with wooden materials, while bed bugs and silverfish were found in bedding and stored paper materials. The study indicates that lack of hygiene, water stagnation, and improper waste disposal increase pest problems. People use different methods like sprays, cleaning practices, and natural remedies for control. The study highlights that awareness and proper sanitation are essential for reducing pest infestation..

Keywords: Household insect pests, Insect infestation, Integrated pest management (IPM), Domestic sanitation, Urban ecology, Pest diversity, Control strategies

I. INTRODUCTION

Insects are one of the largest groups of animals found on Earth and are present in almost every environment. While many insects are useful for ecological balance, some species become harmful when they interfere with human life. Such insects are known as pests. Household insect pests are those that live inside or around human homes and depend on domestic conditions for survival. With the increase in urbanization and population, the problem of household pests has become more common. Houses provide suitable conditions like food waste, water, and hiding places, which support pest growth. Many pests can reproduce quickly and survive under difficult conditions, making them difficult to control. Household pests can be grouped into crawling insects like ants and cockroaches, flying insects like mosquitoes and flies, and storage pests that damage food grains. These pests not only cause damage to property but also spread diseases and create unhygienic conditions. Their presence is influenced by factors such as poor cleanliness, moisture, and improper storage of food. For example, stagnant water supports mosquito breeding, while leftover food attracts ants and cockroaches.

To control these pests, different methods are used, including chemical sprays, cleaning practices, and natural remedies. Nowadays, more attention is given to integrated pest management, which focuses on safe and long-term control.



II. MATERIALS & METHODS

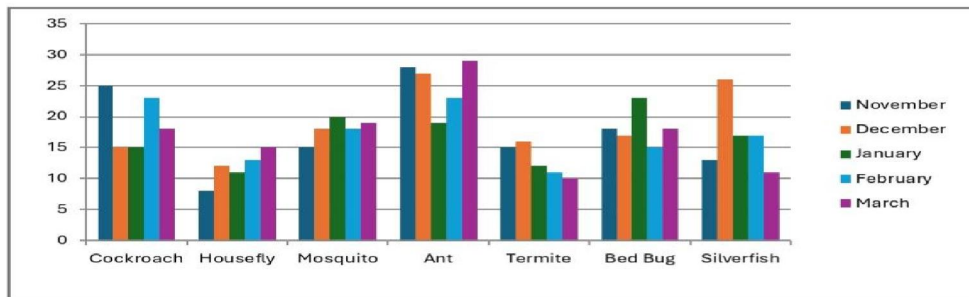
The study was carried out in residential areas of Sangamner by selecting 25 houses with different environmental conditions. Observations were made in areas like kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, and storage places where pests are usually found. The study duration was from November to March to understand seasonal changes. Information was collected by visiting houses regularly and asking residents about pest problems and control methods. Insects were collected using nets, sticky traps, and manual methods. Identification was done based on physical appearance using basic guides. Data collected was arranged month-wise to compare pest occurrence and understand patterns.

III. RESULT & DISCUSSION

The study showed that several insect pests are commonly present in households. Ants and cockroaches were the most frequently found pests, mainly in food-related areas. Mosquitoes were observed near water sources, and houseflies near garbage. Termites damaged wooden materials, while bed bugs and silverfish were found in bedding and paper storage areas. The number of pests changed with seasons and environmental conditions. Poor hygiene and moisture were the main reasons for higher pest presence.

Sr. No.	Pest Observed	Comparative Months studied					Dominated Months
		November	December	January	February	March	
1	Cockroach	25	15	15	23	18	November
2	Housefly	08	12	11	13	15	March
3	Mosquito	15	18	20	18	19	January
4	Ant	28	27	19	23	29	March
5	Termite	15	16	12	11	10	December
6	Bed Bug	18	17	23	15	18	January
7	Silverfish	13	26	17	17	11	December

Comparative Monthly Distribution of Common Household Pests Recorded in Sangamner



Comparative Monthly Distribution of Common Household Pests in Graphical form

IV. CONCLUSION

The study clearly shows that household insect pests are widely present and their occurrence depends on sanitation, moisture, and food availability. Ants, cockroaches, and mosquitoes were the most common pests observed. Proper cleaning, waste management, and control of water stagnation can reduce pest problems. Using a combination of different control methods is more effective than relying on a single method.



Creating awareness among people about hygiene and pest control practices is very important to maintain a healthy living environment.

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