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THE INFESTATION PERCENTAGE OF THE GREAT POLLEN *ARENIPSES SABELLA* HAMPS (PYRALIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA) ON CULTIVARS DATE PALM TREES IN SOUTH OF IRAQ

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Abstract

The date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is a very important economic crop in Iraq, Palm trees are attacked by a large number of insect pests in all their parts, causing them sometimes serious and great damage, represented in the weakness of the palm, which leads to a decrease in its productivity of dates in terms of quality and quantity. This study was conducted to find out the rate of infestation and economic loss caused by the infestation of the Great Pollen *Arenipses sabella* Hamps (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) on date palm trees, Phoenix dactylifera L, Barhi cultivar, in Abu Al-Khasib area, Basra Governorate, during the 2020 season. the results showed that the highest infestation rate was in the Al-Barhi cultivar, which amounted to 50.77%, while the infestation of the Al-Sayer cultivar was 49.09%, with a significant difference from the infection rate of the Al-Halawi cultivar, which amounted to 43.81%, which recorded the lowest infestation with the great pollen worm, , the infection rate was 50.77% and 49.09%, respectively, while the lowest rate of infection was recorded on Al-Halawi cultivar, with a significant difference from the two previously mentioned cultivars, amounting to 43.81%, and the general average of the date palm infestation level was 47.89 %.

Keywords: Date Palm trees ، Arenipses sabella ، The infestation percentage, the Great Pollen.

.Introduction

The date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is a very important economic crop in different countries, It is one of the important trees in human life due to its importance in meeting the food and commercial needs and the rest of the other requirements of life, as it has economic importance and great nutritional value (Abbas and Mazel, 2019, Khalaf, 2013). Palm trees are attacked by a large number of insect pests in all their parts, causing them sometimes serious and great damage, represented in the weakness of the palm, which leads to a decrease in its productivity of dates in terms of quality and quantity, and these damages also lead to the death of the palm. At the top of the date palm, the pollen and fruits of the date palm are exposed to many pests and insects that attack the flowering spurs before and after they open. They also attack the fruits in their different stages, including the greater date moth *Arenipses sabella* Hamps (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera), which leads to wilting and breaking of the fruits. Then its fall (Al-Jubouri, 2007). As well, the greater date moth Arenipses sabella Hamps is considered one of the important pests on the date palm, as the rate of damage to the pollen reaches 77%, as its larvae feed on all stages of the fruits (Al-