

# SUMMARY

In the province of El Chapare, Bolivia, *Brachiaria decumbens* and *B. humidicola* are productive for-

age grasses which are being increasingly planted by cattle farmers. However, they are periodically infested with spittlebug. During 1983-1984, populations of nymphs and adults associated with both *Brachiaria* spp. were counted and damage caused was assessed during one year.

Species found included *Zulia* sp., *Aeneolamia astralis* and *Mahanarva* sp. In *B. decumbens*, the highest populations of nymphs and adults coincided with the dry period. This is the period when *B. decumbens* usually produces the most forage thus encouraging spittlebug infestation. During the wettest period, however, pastures are often

flooded which inhibits spittlebug populations. In *B. humidicola*, spittlebug levels were generally low during the whole year with the exception of adults in the wet season.