

# Summary

A high incidence rate of insect pests attacking pasture plants exists in the El Chapare region of Bolivia, (250 m.a.s.l., 5000 mm annual precipitation, 23.8°C mean annual temperature). Initiated in June 1984, monthly observations were made for one year on the entomological fauna present on the following grasses: *Brachiaria decumbens*, *B. humidicola*, *Panicum maximum*, *Andropogon gayanus* and *Hemarthria altissima* and the legumes: *Zornia latifolia*, *Desmodium ovalifolium*, *D. heterophyllum*, *Codariocalyx gyroides*, *Calopogonium muconoides*, *Pueraria phaseoloides*, *Stylosanthes guianensis* and *S. capitata*.

The most frequently found order of insects in the grasses was Homoptera with numerous members of the families Cicadellidae and Cercopidae.

In the legumes, the most common insect orders were: Orthoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera and Coleoptera. Among the Orthopterous insects, the family Tettigonidae was predominant and among the Coleopteras, the Crysomelidae were most

common and caused severe legume damage within the region.

It can be observed that the insect population fluctuates. During the flowering of *B. decumbens* and *B. humidicola*, high populations of hemipterous, grain-sucking insects appear and during pasture establishment the population of ants (*Atta* spp.) is abundant.

A table of genera and species of insects found and their feeding habits is presented.