

Summary

In a pasture of *Brachiaria decumbens* located in Villavicencio, Colombia, within the tropical rainforest ecosystem (2891 mm, 25°C), changes in the number of spittlebug (*Aeneolamia varia*) adults and nymphs of both sexes were observed over a 20-day period.

Observations were made on alternate days between 5-25 October 1985 around infested areas in 10 sites. Entomologists' nets were used to capture

adults in 10 samplings per site, and the number of nymphs per square meter was determined with the aid of a 0.25 m² frame.

For data analysis, $\sqrt{N + 0.5}$ and logarithmic conversions were used for the number of nymphs and of adults respectively. In addition, a conversion factor was generated to predict the maximum number of insects during periods when sampling was difficult.

Results showed the existence of an interaction between both sunshine and precipitation with the number of insects. On days with intense sunshine the number of *A. varia* was low, but on days with both rain and intense sunshine the adult insects in the pasture were reported to be numerous.

The daily variation in the number of insects in the pasture revealed that the insect prefers semi-darkness, the highest number of adults (47) being captured on 10 samplings at 18:00 hours.