

Summary

The population dynamics of *Aeneolamia reducta* (Lallemand) were studied in *Bothriochloa pertusa* pastures on the Caribbean Coast of Colombia to further characterize the grass-feeding spittlebug complex in this ecoregion. Intensive surveys were carried out in three plots on two representative farms over 2 years. The abundance of nymphs (8 x 0.25 m² per plot) and adults (4 x 50 sweeps of an insect net per plot) were measured twice weekly and analyzed according to life stage to gauge variation at the level of region, farm and year in certain components of population ecology including species composition, seasonal abundance, population fluctuation, and incidence of natural enemies. Nymphs and adults achieved densities as high as 73/0.25 m² and 1056/50 sweeps, respectively. Male:female sex ratio was nearly 50:50 (51.6% males). Variation in abundance of nymphs and adults, respectively, was 2.6- and 23.2-fold between farms, 10.7- and 12.5-fold between years, and 22.3- and 29.9-fold among pastures on the same farm. Nymph abundance explained 59% of adult abundance in the same pasture. The presence of nymphs and adults corresponded to the rainy season, especially the wettest months of April-December; these life stages were barely detectable the rest of the year. Entomopathogenic fungi, parasitic mites, and parasitic nematodes were reported for the first time on *A. reducta*. Relative to other ecoregions of Colombia, this site highly seasonal in precipitation experiences reduced local species diversity, higher abundance, more pronounced population fluctuations, and reduced diversity and abundance of natural enemies.