

## Assessment of Germination Loss Due to Dusky Cotton Bug (*Oxycarenus laetus*) in Relation to Cotton Boll Stage and Bug Intensity

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**Abstract :** Dusky cotton bug (*Oxycarenus laetus*) has attained the status of major insect pest of cotton. It is also known as seed bug due to its property of feeding on seeds. It causes floral abscission at flowering stage and reduction in seed germination. Present study was carried out to assess germination loss caused by dusky bug with respect to crop stage and insect intensity. Treatments consisted of three stages immature boll, mature boll and opened boll as well three levels of dusky bug i.e., 50 bugs per boll, 40 bugs per boll along with zero level kept as control. Results showed that the germination percentage was highest in control treatment where no insect was released followed by treatment where 40 insects released and minimum germination showed by treatment in which 50 insects were released. The germination percentage of seeds surpassed after control treatment in the treatment where dusky bugs exposure was given at boll opening stage than on mature boll stage. Minimum germination was observed in immature boll stage. Interaction between crop stages and dusky bug levels showed that germination percentage of seeds was maximum in control treatment then boll opening stage followed by mature boll stage. Minimum seed germination was recorded in dusky bug treatment at immature boll stage which was 34% where 50 insects were released. From the results it is clear that dusky bug should be managed properly at all reproductive stages but immature stage is most critical.

**Keywords :** *Gossypium hirsutum*, *Oxycarenus laetus*, seed bug, seed germination

**Conference Title :** ICAAEFB 2017 : International Conference on Advanced Agricultural Engineering and Food Biosecurity

**Conference Location :** Lisbon, Portugal

**Conference Dates :** April 16-17, 2017