



Dynamics of the flea beetle *Podagrica decolorata* Duvivier, 1892 (Insecta: Chrysomelidae) on okra crops: implications for conservation of the Tanoé-Ehy Swamp Forests (south-eastern Ivory Coast)

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1 SUMMARY

The study was on the dynamics of the flea beetle on okra crops and implications on conservation of the Tanoé-Ehy Swamp Forests in south-eastern of Ivory Coast. The biological material of the study consisted of okra seeds, which were sown in a complete randomized system. The data collection focused on the number of insects (*Podagrica decolorata*) in okra fields during the rainy season and dry seasons. Twenty five (25) to 45 adults and larvae were recorded per plant during the dry season whereas 5 to 10 insect individuals were collected in the rainy season. Okra yields varied from 30 to 40 t ha⁻¹ in the rainy season against 15 to 20 t ha⁻¹ in the dry season. This was correlated with indices of insect damage in dry season, which were more than 50% of destroyed leaves. During the rainy season, less than 25% of leaves damaged. These results showed that areas adjacent to the Tanoé-Ehy Swamp Forests could be used in a context of the forest remnant conservation for cultivating vegetables and hence generate incomes to local populations.
