

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF EVERY STAGE OF
MALAYAN RICE BLACK BUG (*Scotinophara coarctata* F)
IN GROWING RICE PLANT (*Oryza sativa* Lin)
in Brgy Doyog, La Paz Leyte

A Thesis

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Of the Requirements for the Degree
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

by

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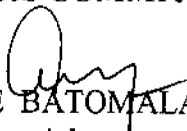
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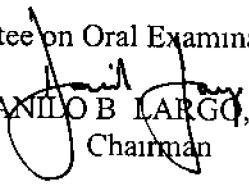

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ABSTRACT

Malayan rice black bug (MRBB) *Scotinophara coarctata* Fabricius is a new rice pest in the Region 8 This paper presents some observations on the population dynamics , including the local practices in controlling these pests in Brgy Doyog, La Paz, Leyte This study aimed to provide new information that can lead to better understanding the nature of these pests Visual counting was used in determining relative abundance of the different stages of these pests in the growing rice plants Study sites in the field were chosen at random Small nymph rearing cages were used to study the life cycle of these pests Questionnaires were used to gather data in determining the local farming practices relative to MRBB pest management Results showed that towards maturity of rice plants, the number of egg masses, nymphs, and adults in the field decreased The decrease in population density was brought about by some mortality factors like growth stage of rice plant, presence of red ants and increasing amount of rainfall The total life cycle of *S coarctata* from egg to adult covered 43-46 days Egg density was not affected by the physical parameters determined in the study area Relative abundance of nymphs and adult MRBB was not affected by average amount of relative humidity and temperature However, it was affected by increasing amount of rainfall Cultural practices of farmers toward controlling MRBB were relatively ineffective A broader integrated pest management approach should be carefully planned to prevent the damage caused by these pests

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