

**SEASONAL POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE SUGAR BEET
MOTH, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* Boyd. ON THE BEET ROOT IN
KHORASAN PROVINCE/IRAN**

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The outbreak of the sugar beet moth, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* Boyd. (Lep.: Gelechiidae) has been recently recorded in the sugar beet fields in Khorasan province of Iran. The seasonal population dynamics of *S. ocellatella* was investigated in the sugar beet fields (Paulina cultivar) in Fariman Sugar Factory (in the center of Khorasan) during 2010. One hectare of field (inside of a large field) was selected randomly and divided into three equal parts. Each part was as a replication. In each part ten stations were selected randomly and were sampled in 10 days intervals from early growth of plant. In each station 10 sugar beet roots were selected randomly and the number of larvae and infested pot were recorded. Results showed that the population of pest rises gradually from the early of July and continued until late of November. Peak of pest population was in the middle of November (17.23 larvae per root). Percentage of infested pots was 20% and over 70% in July and November, respectively. Based on this result, number of larvae per root and infested pots is very severe in the late season. So, pest population increases gradually with increasing of root growth.

Key words: dynamics, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*, population, seasonal, sugar beet
