

Montana Small Grain Insects

Biology, Detection, and Identification of the Wheat Stem Sawfly

Cephus cinctus Norton (Hymenoptera: Cephidae)

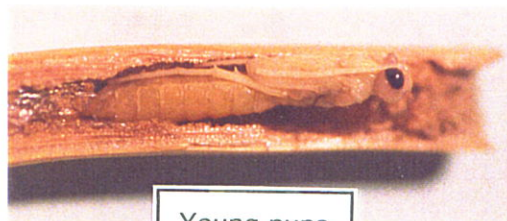
CAPSULE INFORMATION SERIES NUMBER 43, REVISED 1997

Wendell Morrill, Dept. of Entomology, MSU Bozeman, MT 59717

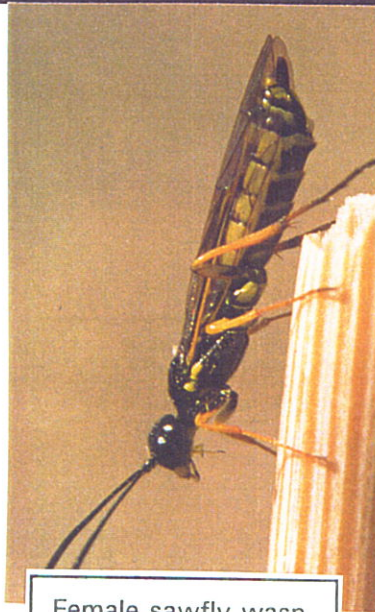
- *Sawfly life stages are: larva (worm), pupa, adult (wasp), and egg.
- *Larvae overwinter underground in lower regions of wheat stems, or "stubs".
- *Wasps usually begin to emerge in early June, when bromegrass is heading.
- *Wasp emergence can be delayed by cold wet weather. Males emerge first.
- *Each female wasp lays 30-40 eggs during 2 weeks. Field edges are infested first.



Larva removed from "stub"



Young pupa



Female sawfly wasp.



Egg in wheat stem.



Larva feeding in wheat stem

- *Dissect stubs to find overwintering larvae. Stubs have a thin paper-like lining.
- *Young pupae are white, but are black/yellow when wasps are ready to emerge.
- *Inspect foliage or use sweep nets to detect early season wasps in field edges.
- *Eggs are inside of stems, and are about the size of a pin head.
- *Split stems open to find larvae, or "sawdust" from larval feeding.
- *Infested stems develop dark spots below nodes. Straw ends are cleanly cut.
- *Wheat strawworms are also found in stems, and also produce "sawdust".

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Research and publication costs are supported by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.