

Observations on the Life History of the Coffee White Stem Borer, *Monochamus leuconotus* Pascoe (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae): Adult Emergence Patterns in Chipinge, Zimbabwe

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SUMMARY

The coffee white stem borer, *Monochamus leuconotus* is an important pest of Arabica coffee in Zimbabwe. Stems are damaged through ring barking and wood boring activities by the larval stage of the borer. Control of the borer used to be achieved by applying persistent insecticides such as dieldrin and aldrin onto the stems. However, this is no longer feasible because of their adverse effects on the environment. Emergence of the adults was monitored at the Coffee Research Station, Chipinge, Zimbabwe during the period November to October 1996/97, 1998/99 and 1999/2000. It has been observed that emergence starts in November and ends in April. The peak emergence period is January while the least is in April. This implies that it is important to monitor for stem borer emergence during the rainy season (November to April). Control of the pest can safely be achieved by handpicking of adults. A more environmentally friendly way of controlling the pest would be handpicking of adults of adults and/or spraying the adult with a non-persistent insecticide during the flight period of the adult. More work still needs to be done to determine the relationship between rainfall amount and adult emergence.