

INSECT PEST OF CASSAVA

(i) *Zonocerus variegatus* (Elegant Grasshopper)

The nymphs are black with yellow ringed legs and antennae. The adults (3.5cm long) are dark green, boldly patterned with yellow, black and orange. There are five instars and total nymphal period is about 4 months. Adult life span is 3 - 4 months.

(ii) *Mononychellus tanajoi* or *M. Progresivus* (Cassava Green Mites)

They are smaller than many spider mites, green in colour at a young age turning yellowish as adult. Adult female produce between 20 – 90 eggs during a life time of 4 weeks. Developmental time from egg to adult is about 14 days.

(iii) *Phenacoccus manihoti* – Cassava mealy bug. Live adult female are pinkish in colour, 1-3mm in length. Life cycle from egg to adult takes 33 days at 27°C. *P. manihoti* is a parthenogenetic species

(iv) *Bemisia tabaci* (Tobacco white fly) -. The eggs are 0.2mm in size, pear-shaped and white when first laid, but later turns brown. They hatch after about 7 days. The total nymphal period last 2 - 4 weeks according to temperature. They are particularly important as vector of Cassava Mosaic Virus.