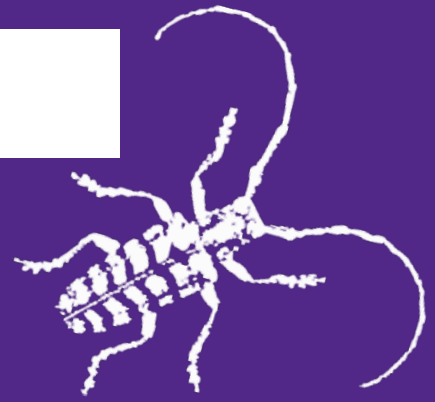


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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White-lined Sphinx

Are you seeing flying insects that resemble hummingbirds visiting various flowers in the garden (Figure 1)? Well, these are moths of the white-lined sphinx, *Hyles lineata*, which is commonly observed during this time of year. The moths are active day and night feeding on flower nectar using their elongated, tubular mouthparts while hovering like a hummingbird. They feed on a wide variety of flowering plants including cardinal flower, columbine, evening primrose, honeysuckle, penstemon, petunia, and phlox.



Figure 1. White-Lined Sphinx Moth Feeding On Nectar from Flower (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

The adult body and front wings are green-brown and there are six white stripes on the thorax (middle section of the insect body). The main veins of the front wings are white. There is a distinct light-brown or gray-brown band that extends across each front wing from the tip to the base. The hind wings are dark-

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brown and there is a broad pink band extending across each wing. There is also a narrow, pink band along the margin (Figure 2).

In spring, adult females lay hundreds of eggs on plant leaves. Caterpillars (larvae) emerge (eclose) from the eggs. Mature (older) caterpillars are 3.5 inches (8.9 cm) long.

Caterpillars vary in color but are commonly light green with black stripes extending the length of the body, as well as yellow and orange spots. There is a pointed horn at the end of the body (Figures 3 and 4). Caterpillars feed on weeds including purslane and four o' clocks. They eventually burrow into the soil and pupate.

Figure 2. White-Lined Sphinx Moth (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 3. White-Lined Sphinx Caterpillar (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 4. White-Lined Caterpillar (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Raymond Cloyd – Horticultural Entomology

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Sugarcane aphids

Sugarcane aphids are still quite active throughout the eastern 2/3rd's of Kansas in fields that still have some green leaves. These aphids are continuing to migrate in and almost as soon as they land on green leaf tissue, they start producing the tiny nymphs (see fig 1-just produced nymphs with winged female that produced them). These aphids are still infesting sorghum but, so far, have not caused any problems throughout northcentral Kansas. It is getting late enough in the growing season that they should not have enough time to increase to the point where they will be a problem.



Figure 1: SCA nymphs and mother (photo by Cody Wyckoff)

Figure 2 shows an area outlined by a marker, on the underside of a sorghum leaf that was infested by a substantial (200+) colony of sugarcane aphids in early September but was subsequently eliminated by natural causes-no insecticides. This has been typical for the last 3 years, i.e. sugarcane aphids migrate into Kansas, starting in about mid-July and continue until late October, and establish small isolated colonies but with very few areas actually developing significant populations that require treatment.



Figure 2: Underside of leaf previously infested by SCA colony (photo by Cody Wyckoff)

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crops

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“Worms” (con’t)

Have not seen, nor had any reports of, substantial armyworm or fall armyworm infestations since 28 September.

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crops

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Bug Jokes of the Week

Q: What Do You Call A Beetle That Can Dance?

A: A Jitterbug

Q: What kind of worms make the best carpenters?

A: Inch Worms.

Q: How can you tell which end of a worm is which?

A: Tickle it in the middle and see which end giggles.

Raymond Cloyd – Horticultural Entomology AND Jeff Whitworth – Field Crops

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Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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