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White Aphids: Pose Significant Challenges to Agricultural Productivity

Dr. Chanchal Shrivastav[1*], Dr. Manoj Joshi[2], Dr. Dharmendra Bahadur Singh[3], Dr. Neetu Sharma[4], Dr. Shalini Gupta[5], Pulkit Sharma[6] and Saloni[7]

[1]PG Department Zoology, Khandelwal College of Management Science and Technology, Bareilly U.P-India
[2]Department of Botany, Khandelwal College of Management Science and Technology, Bareilly U.P-India
[3]PG Department Zoology, SVM Science & Technology Lalganj Pratapgarh, U.P-India
[4]PG Department Zoology, Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya Bareilly U.P-India
[5,6,7]PG Department Chemistry, Khandelwal College of Management Science and Technology, Bareilly U.P-India (Affiliated to the M.J.P.R. University Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-India 243122)
Email: chanchalbest123@gmail.com
*Corresponding author

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Abstract— *Bareilly its Surrounding area falls within the "Tarai Zone " where white aphids are found in abundance. These are small insects that suck the juice of the crop cycle. There are a few species of white aphids in the world, but the species found on grass, flowers, and vegetable crops create significant problems for the yield and health of the plants. They affect the ecological environment in terms of biological cycling of the soil and environmental conditions, which can be focused on along with the plants. But for the identification and management of the insects that spread on a large scale, many predator species, like maintenance and parasitoid wasps, have been considered as the experts for biological control and prevention of the effects. However, this paper, we focus on how chemical dynamic control of impacts can enhance agricultural productivity and crop protection.*

Keywords— ***Practices, Transgenic, Lady beetles.***

I. INTRODUCTION

Aphids- superfamily Aphidoidea, and are commonly known as whiteflies. They exhibit a wide range of colours within the same species and include fluffy white woolly aphids. The life cycle of aphids has revealed that these insects are capable of producing offspring without a male. This process is called "telegonous generation," in which females give birth to new offspring through parthenogenesis. This type of reproduction leads to rapid population growth. These insects mature quickly and produce many offspring in a short period of time, causing their numbers to increase rapidly in fields. Depending on climatic conditions, especially during favorable seasons (such as spring and autumn), they exhibit their winged forms (alate forms). These winged stages fly to new plants or areas, thus spreading across different crops and locations.

Aphids' habitats are often temporary, shifting locations with seasonal changes (such as autumn or winter). During the winter season, they usually go into an inactive state or survive in the form of eggs, which develop again in the next season.

Life cycles of some species of aphid complicated involves alternating joining two types of entertainer plants, such as age groups crops and a Lignneous plants. While about struggle specialize in a single Kind of flora, futher are polymath and can colonize a variety of plant groups. There are about 5,000 described species of aphids, all within the group Aphididae.

Families

- Aphididae Latreille, 1802
- Bajsaphididae Homan, Zyla & We Gierek, 2015

- Canadaphididae Richards, 1966
- Cretamyzidae Heie, 1992
- Drepanochaitophoridae Zhang & Hong, 1999
- Oviparosiphidae Shaposhnikov, 1979
- Parvaverrucosidae Poinar & Brown, 2006
- Sinaphididae Zhang, Zhang, Hou & Ma, 1989
- incertae sedis
- Palaeoforda tajmyrensis Kononova, 1977
- Penaphis Lin, 1980
- Plioaphis subhercynica Heie, 1968
- Sbenaphis Scudder, 1890
- Sunaphis Hong & Wang, 1990
- Xilutiancallis Wang, 1991
- Yueaphis Wang, 1993

As you all know that aphids are considered to be the smallest insects in size which, besides being parasites, maintain a mutual relationship with other living organisms like ants, lady birds, beetles, and take care of them, due to which it play an important role in protecting them from predators. They are particularly harmful to plants and weaken them by sucking the juice of plants and their leaves, fruits, flowers etc. due to which they act as vectors for plant viruses. Apart from this, they spoil ornamental plants due to city deposits in the form of a sticky substance, which grows in the form of a fungus or black mold. Along with this, their ecological success and capabilities increase rapidly day by day.

White aphids are difficult to control, but not impossible. They can be treated with insecticides from a different perspective, as aphids possess a unique resistance and prefer to nest on the underside of leaves. Spraying soap in a water tank using a small spray tool can be effective. Natural predators, including box ladybirds, wasps, aphids, and their midge larvae, can also be used as parthenogenic fungi, which can be used as biological control agents. Furthermore, management in controlled environments, such as greenhouses, has been shown to be quite effective.

Distribution

The species of aphid is ubiquitous or cosmopolitan. They exhibit their habitat in temperate zones, where their diversity may be much lower than in temperate zones, but more species have been observed in temperate zones. Many species also follow a migration process, as winged aphids can fly up to about 600 m, where they can spread their wings in the air along with secure breeze. for instance: the character aphids (*Acyrthosiphon pisum*) are accepting on have grown from Uttarakhand India to Chaina and Pakistan by easterly winds throughout 2022

The phylogenetic tree of the Aphididae, as derived from studies by Papasotiropoulos (2013), Kim (2011), and Ortiz-Rivas and Martinez-Torres (2009), presents a detailed internal phylogeny of this family. One approach to elucidating the phylogeny of aphid groups is through the examination of their bacterial endosymbionts, particularly the require endosymbiont *Buchnera*. This method relies on the expectation that these symbionts are transmitted rigorously Perpendicularly from one generation to the next. Evidence strongly supports this assumption, and several phylogenetic relationships within the Aphididae have been inferred from endosymbiont studies.

Carotenoids and photoheterotrophy:

White aphids have been shown to possess the ability to produce red carotenoids through horizontal gene transfer from fungi. This mucus, secreted by white aphids, appears red in color, called red carotenoids. This makes aphids, along with two-spotted spider mites and Oriental hornets, unique among animals with this ability. Aphids use their carotenoids to mop up solar energy and transform it into usable cellular energy, ATP. This phenomenon is the only known example of Chemoheterotroph in organism. Aphids have carotenoid pigments near the surface of their cuticle, positioning them well to absorb sunlight. When these carotenoids are stimulated by sunlight, they convert NAD to NADH. NADH is then oxidized in the mitochondria, helping to produce animation for the aphid.

Ant-Aphid Mutualism

A Few White aphids and ants form a bond with each other. This relationship is called mutualism. It is often observed that during farming or crop rotation, aphids work with ants to avoid predators and drink the sticky substance secreted by the aphids, which provides them with food. In return, the aphids receive protection. Sometimes, along with food, they also find a place and create a habitat. For example, some ant species collect aphid eggs from their nests during the winter and carry them to new plants in the spring. Ants found on European as well as many yellow grasses form a colony or swarm with their aphids, who help them care for each other and provide protection and care.

Bacterial Endosymbiosis

Aphids maintain an ancient and essential association with the intracellular bacterium Buchnera aphidicola, which occupy within Professional cells called bacteriocytes. The endosymbiosis partnership of Buchnera is primarily responsible for the aphid's nutrition, as the aphid's phloem sap is not a source of food, and it is also believed that their twin groups diverged between 280 and 160 million years ago. Additionally, the aphid constantly uses the phloem sap as its food source.

Ecological Impact and Conservation:

Aphids have a unique role in the environment and ecosystem as they play a key role in the reproductive stage and symbiotic conditions because their behavior with other species of termites, ants, and bacteria is considered efficient. If seen, it reflects the ecological condition in the form of endosymbiosis, that is, it is considered the right medium of pest control for protection. According to nature, biodiversity, in which both plants and animals affect each other, along with infection and intercommunication, promotes biological methods and support, which proves to be helpful in the balance of the forest ecosystem as well as biodiversity.ecological niche. Insights into their biology can support more sustainable agricultural practices and conservation strategies, contributing to the long-term balance of managed and wild ecosystems.

Life Cycle: White aphids have a very short lifespan because their life cycle is affected by temperature as well as the environment. Their numbers can be seen changing within about 8-10 days as they lay eggs. Most generations are affected by changes in the weather. Their population increases in mild or high temperatures due to warm winds. White aphids prefer to lay eggs in a place different from the winter. After laying, the eggs are fertilized and migrate to different leaves, flowers, crops, and grasses. After several generations, they develop wings that migrate to the host plant and continue their successive cycles. In larger species, these eggs are genetically similar depending on the season, but most females lay eggs after 5 to 15 days. The first spawning period varies between species, averaging 8 to 10 days. The breeding period can range from 10 to 12 days. If predators are absent, spawning occurs at intervals of approximately 22 to 24 days. Whitefly species multiply rapidly and disrupt crop cycles. They maintain their dominance during the summer, as they will be extinct by March 2025 this year. As of June 2025, it has been observed that the species of white acid attacks several crop cycles, such as hibiscus flowers, parthenogenic grasses, chilli plants, and the effects of which have been demonstrated through this cycle, besides growing in large quantities on tobacco and winter crops like potatoes.

Spring Emergence:

- **Egg Hatching:** Overwintering eggs hatch as temperatures warm and plants start to grow.
- **Founding Females:** The hatched aphids are all feminine. These feminine develop to Cultivating plant to begin sustain.
- **Asexual Reproduction:**
- **Live Births:** these establish feminine new young daughter that are tiny duplicate
- **Rapid Population Growth:** Under favourable conditions, the population can grow quickly. All colony members are wingless females that produce female offspring. This phase causes the population to grow rapidly..

Host Switching:

i. **Complex Life Cycles**: Some aphid species have complex life cycles that involve switching between primary and secondary host plants.

ii. **Repeated Infestations:** These species can repeatedly infest secondary hosts, which vary by location and time of year.

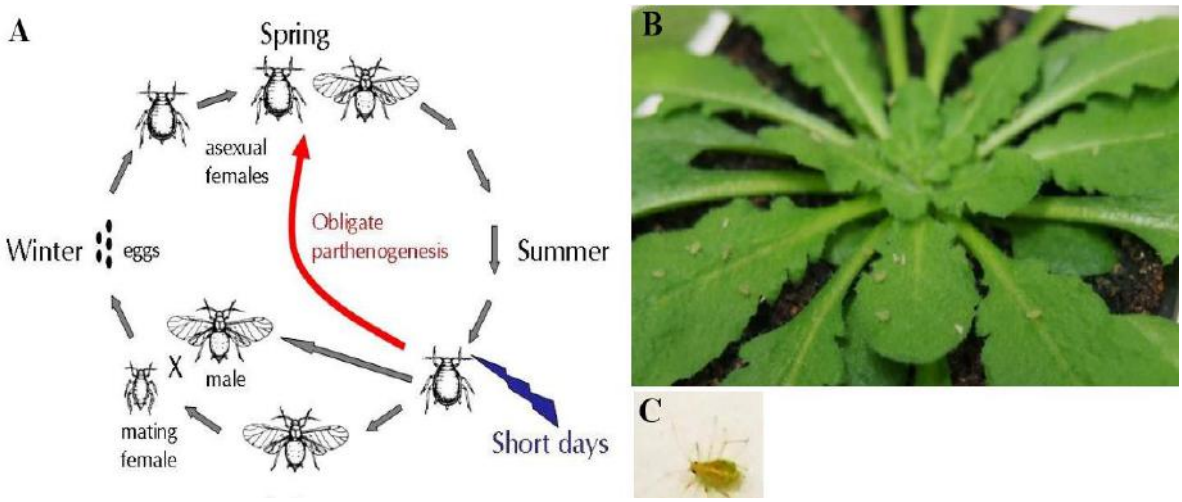

Fig:01 Life Cycle of Aphid in Host Plants

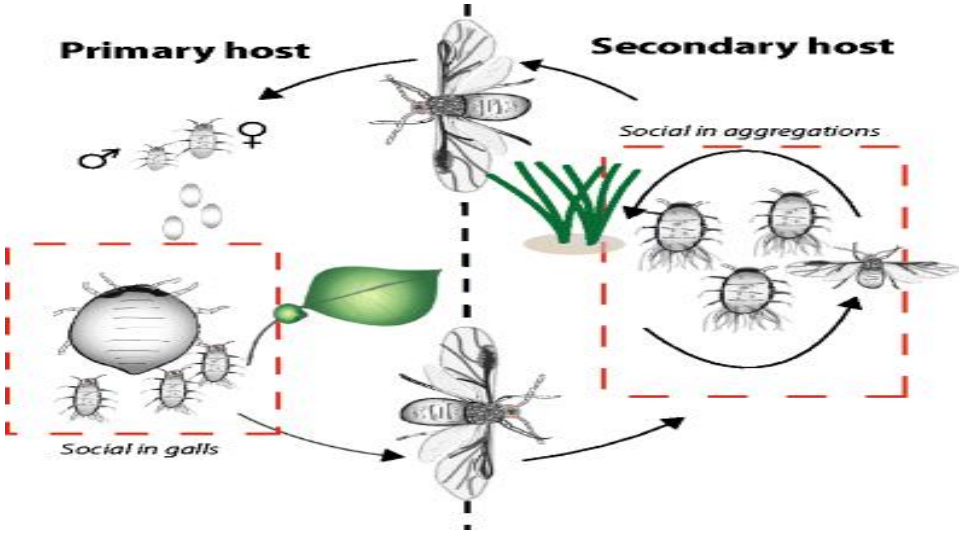

Fig:2 Life Cycle of Aphid in different stage

Production of Winged Forms:

1. Environmental stress: If the host plant becomes too crowded, winged females may leave the group to reduce the quality of the food source.
2. Dispersal: These winged females disperse to find new habitat and begin producing wingless females.
3. Fall reproduction/sexual form: As days shorten and temperatures cool in autumn, both male and female offspring are produced.
4. Mating and egg laying: These sexual forms mate, and the resulting eggs are laid in protected locations (such as in bark crevices and under lichens) so they can survive the harsh winter conditions.

Predators: Environmental Impacts on Aphids

White aphids are eaten by a variety of birds and insects. The investigation conducted on a grange in North Carolina revealed that Siberian birds consume approximately 10 to 12 lakh white aphids daily. Similarly, the Indian sparrow can consume approximately 83% of its diet. Apart from small birds, larger birds include species like herons, etc.

Other creatures that prey on white aphids include adult ladybirds and larvae, parasitic wasps, and spiders. Among ladybirds, Myzia oblongoguttata is a specialist, feeding exclusively on conifer aphids, while generalists such as Adalia bipunctata and Coccinella septempunctata feed on a variety of aphid species. Female ladybirds lay eggs in batches, with each female capable of laying several hundred eggs.

Pathogens and Weather

White aphid infections have some sensitivity to bacteria, viruses, and fungi. With changing seasons, increased rainfall and heat, they play a significant role in increasing the aphid population, along with environmental factors. Infections also affect their populations. Some diseases, including *Neozoites fresenii*, *Entomophthora*, *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, and *Lecanicillium lecanii*, play a significant role. Except for microscopic aphid species, they adhere to adhesive substances and parts of their bodies to feed on them, which they then extract from the air. Rain, due to inclement weather, can increase fertility rates because it kills bacteria and prevents the aphid from spreading. This is considered beneficial for aphid control.

Anti-predator defences: Most aphids have limited defences against predators. However, some species form galls—abnormal plant tissue swellings—that provide protection from predators and environmental hazards. Within these galls, certain aphids produce specialized "soldier" forms, sterile nymphs with defensive adaptations to protect the gall. For instance, Alexander's horned aphids possess a hard exoskeleton and pincer-like mouthparts for defence.

Primitive white aphids are flightless but drop to the ground to avoid being preyed upon by herbivorous animals. Some species find permanent protection in the soil, feeding on root vascular systems and staying underground. These underground aphids are often attended by ants, which transport them between plants through tunnels in exchange for honeydew. "Woolly aphids" *(Eriosomatinae)* excrete a fluffy wax coating for added protection. The cabbage aphid, *Brevicoryne brassicae*, stores secondary metabolites from its host and releases chemicals that create a mustard oil smell to repel predators. Aphids also produce peptides known as thaumatin, which may provide resistance to certain fungi. Contrary to some outdated references, honeydew is secreted from the anus, not the cornicles,

which primarily produce defensive chemicals like waxes. Cornicle wax can attract predators of aphids in some cases. Additionally, certain clones of *Aphis craccivora* are toxic to the invasive ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*, suppressing its population and favouring other ladybird species.

Parasitoids: Aphids are both abundant and widespread, acting as hosts to a diverse array of parasitoids, including many very small parasitoid wasps, typically around 0.1 inches (2.5 mm) in length. For example, the species *Aphis ruborum* hosts at least 12 species of parasitoid wasps. These parasitoids have been extensively studied as potential biological control agents and are profit-oriented utilized for this impetus.

Plant-aphid interactions

Plants employ both local and systemic defences against aphid attacks. In some plants, young leaves contain chemicals that deter aphid attacks, whereas older leaves lose this resistance. The resistance of older tissue to infection allows for its growth on other plants, leading to weakening of crop plants and their parts.

For example, feral potato, Solanum bertholtii, releases an aphid agitation fragrance, (E)-β farnesene, which repels the aphid *Myzus persicae* from up to 3 millimetres away. This wild potato species, like others, also has glandular hairs that, when broken, release a sticky substance, preventing up to 30% of aphids infesting the plant from moving. Furthermore, onion and potato plants can deter nearby aphid attacks by increasing the production of terpenoids, which are used in interplanting. Furthermore, plants adjacent to infested plants may experience increased root growth but reduced apical growth.

Aphid damage can include reduced photosynthesis growth rates, leaf spots, yellowing, stunted growth, leaf curling, browning, wilting, reduced yields, or even plant death. The aphid's excrement weakens the plant, and its saliva is toxic. In addition, aphids often spread plant viruses, such as those affecting potatoes, cereals, sugar beets, and citrus. Virus transmission between aphids and plants occurs in two ways: calcified and non-calcified transmission. In this channeling, viruses form clusters on the aphid's mouthparts and are released to another body part. The green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*) is a vector for over 110 plant viruses, while cotton aphids (*Aphis gossypii*) commonly infect sugarcane, papaya, and peanuts with viruses.

In plants producing phytoestrogens like coumetarol, such as alfalfa, aphid damage correlates with higher concentrations of coumetarol. The honeydew excreted by aphids can also foster the growth of fungi that harm plants and turn down the productiveness of antifungal. The Conjecture suggested in the mid-1970s proposed that nourish might enhance Botanical wellness by nourishing soil microorganisms, including nitrogen fixers, through excess honeydew. However, observational evidence does not support this hypothesis.

Interactions with humans

Around 5,000 species of aphids have been documented, and among them, approximately 450 species have been found to infect food and fibre crops. These insects, feeding directly on plant sap, are responsible for crop damage and yield reduction. However, their impact is amplified as they serve as vectors for plant viruses. The virus infection on aphids depends on their behavior because the virus infection depends on different parts of the plant. The effect on the plant is called the taste and behavior of aphids after feeding on them, which is harmful for them as well as productivity in the place for a long time. The movement of acid is considered to play a role in an epidemic in a virus.

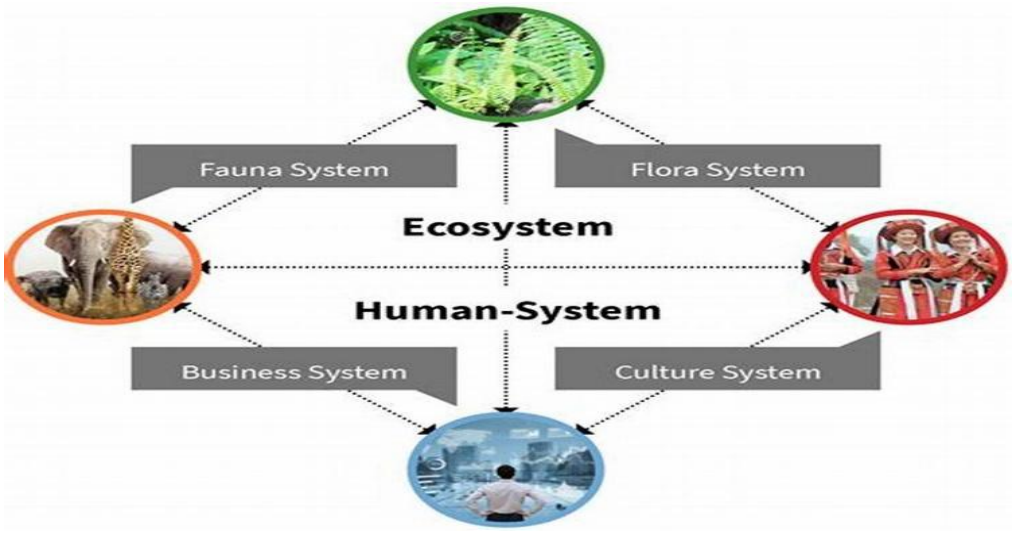

Fig:03 Aphid: Ecosystem fauna and Flora

Fig:05 White Aphid on Vegetable Plants (Green chili) and Others, Grow in Grasses

Vegetable and Food crops are particularly warm, humid, and stable environmental condition. Common greenhouse aphid species include the green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*), cotton or melon aphid (*Aphis gossypii*), potato aphid (*Macrosiphum euphorbiae*), foxglove aphid (*Aulacorthum solani*), and chrysanthemum aphid (*Macrosiphoniella sanborni*). If you notice symptoms like yellowing of leaves, curling of leaves and stunted growth of plants, then you can assume that there is an infestation of aphids. The honeydew excreted by aphids serves as a substrate for various Fungal infection, including black sooty Molds, which further inhibit plant thickening by bring down photosynthesis. Additionally, during large outbreaks, aphids have been known to trigger allergic soporific inhalant reactions in diplomatic individuals. Aphids disperse through various means, including walking, flight, instinctual dispersal, or transhumance. Winged aphids are not strong fliers and typically lose their wings after a few days. Their flight

patterns are influenced by factors such as wind conditions, gravity, hailstones, and other environmental components. Circulation may also occur accidentally through the fluctuation of plant materials, organisms, farm gadgetry, agency, or airship.

II. METHODOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

Material for the aphid species was gathered for this Field cytological investigation from the Rohilkhand villages of Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, in India. In and around the villages of the Bareilly Region, the samples of aphids are gathered from a variety of plants. Additionally, natural and horticultural plants were examined for aphids. Aphid samples were gathered from the fields together with their host plants in polythene bags were secured with rubber bands to prevent them from escaping. Scissors were used to carefully cut away a twig from the infected host plant.

The material was kept in it gradually to avoid upsetting the aphid colony, together with its ant companions, parasites, and predators, if any were present. These were delivered to the lab for additional cytological processing. The gathered material was used to create the cytological slides (aphids). The specimens (alatae, apterae, and nymphs) were kept in 70% alcohol side by side, for each sample was collected for use in taxonomic identification. After gathering all aphid material in 70% alcohol, all the unidentified host plants were also collected, transported to the lab, and kept as a herbarium in order to be identified at a later time. A similar process was used for the outstation collection. Daily cytological slides were created using these samples, like squqnder from the Crop area. The aphids were removed from their host plants using a fine camel brush. The ideal aphids for cytological preparations are live ones. Additionally, these aphids were preserved in a 3:1 mixture of glacial acetic acid and methanol for potential usage in the event of a shortage.

Management

- **Aphid Control and Natural Enemies** Aphid populations in landscapes are typically kept under control by natural enemies. Key aphid predators include:
- **Lady Beetles:** Lady beetles are voracious predators of aphids.
- **Lacewing Larvae**: Lacewing larvae, often called "aphid lions," are effective aphid predators, attacking aphids with their strong mandibles.
- **Hoverfly Larvae**: Hoverfly larvae also prey on aphids, contributing significantly to natural aphid control.
- **Parasitic Wasps***:* Parasitic bee, yellojacket stow their nit inside aphids, and the yellojacket imago begin by consuming the aphid from the inside. As a result, parasitized aphids become enlarged and turn a dark brown or shiny black, frequently go into as "mummies."
- **Exit Holes:** When the adult wasp emerges, it leaves a distinctive exit hole in the aphid mummy.
- **Seasonal Considerations:** In spring, natural enemy densities are lower, which can lead to aphid population outbreaks.

Management Recommendations:

- **Avoid Nitrogen Fertilizers**: If the aphid infestation forms dense colonies on the grass, avoid applying nitrogen dressings.
- **Insecticidal Soap and Horticultural Oil:** These can be used to suppress aphid populations. They are effective only when applied directly onto aphids, requiring thorough coverage of affected plants.
- **Systemic Insecticides**: These are also effective against aphids but must be used carefully to avoid harming beneficial insects and pollinators. Always follow the instructions on the insecticide label.
- **Visual Reference:** Lady beetles consume aphids as food.
- Natural enemies and integrated pest management strategies are crucial for maintaining aphid populations at manageable levels while minimizing the impact on beneficial insects and the environment.

III. CONCLUSION

The present study reveals a significant abundance of white aphids on various crops cycle across the Bareilly district and adjoining areas of Rohilkhand. These aphids play a notable role in local trophic dynamics, forming integral links within the food chain and food web. The diverse agricultural landscape of the region—characterized by mixed cropping systems involving cereals, vegetables, and flowering plants—creates conditions conducive to aphid proliferation, potentially leading to ecological imbalances and reduced crop productivity. Aphids are well known among farmers and horticulturists as major agricultural pests. Field observations conducted by our team corroborate historical accounts, such as Gilbert White's description of aphid infestations in the Bareilly region during early 2025, where massive swarms were observed covering vegetation and producing copious amounts of honeydew. These outbreaks underline the pest's potential to cause extensive physiological stress and aesthetic damage to host plants.

Biological control measures, including the introduction of natural predators such as ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae) and parasitic wasps (Aphidiinae), offer eco-friendly management strategies. However, the transient retention of

adult beetles and the need for repeated releases reduce long-term efficacy. Recent advances in molecular biotechnology have explored transgenic approaches, such as the expression of Eβf synthase genes in Arabidopsis thaliana, to produce allomones capable of repelling aphids and attracting natural enemies. Although initial field results suggest limited success under crop conditions, synthetic analogues of these compounds have shown promise in enhancing the efficiency of fungal biocontrol agents and insecticides.

Overall, sustainable aphid management in the Bareilly region requires an integrated pest management (IPM) approach that combines ecological understanding, biological control, and biotechnological innovation to maintain agricultural stability and minimize environmental impact.

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