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Economic importance of date palm pests in Aljouf region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Abstract: The Insect pests attacking date palm trees at Aljoufregion,Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, were surveyed throughout two successive years in Sakaka. Survey covered existing insect species, stage(s) causing damage, frequency of occurrence, period of occurrence and attacked plant parts).Eleven insect pests belonging to nine families from the orders Homoptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and Hymenoptera were recorded. The most dominant and economically important pests were four scale insects (*Asterolecaniumphoenicis*Rao.,*Parlatoriablanchardi*, *Phoenicococcusmarlatti* and *Fioriniaphoenicis* Bal.,) and *Batrachedraamydraula*, *Ommatissusbinotatuslybicus*Bergevin, *Oryctes spp*. and*Phonopatefrontalis*Fahraeus. Fermented or decayed damagedplant parts hosted Drosophila larvae and/or adults.
Key word:*Phoenix dactylifera*, Date palm tree, Insect Pests, Economic importance.

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