

INTRODUCTION:

The recent pioneering attempts of several cotton growers to produce organic cotton presents an opportunity to monitor pest populations in the absence of synthetic insecticides. The study of alternative pest control practices has the potential to reduce our reliance on insecticides and thus help to overcome resistance problems. Therefore the insect populations of two organically grown cotton crops were monitored as part of a wider study funded by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation into the effects of organic treatments on beneficial and pest insects.

Three areas were involved in study: the Darling Downs (Queensland; J. Bidstrup), the Maquarie (N.S.W.; J. O'Brien) and the MacIntyre (N.S.W; D. & B. Coulton). This report covers the sites at Boggabilla and North Star in the MacIntyre district of northern N.S.W.