1. Introduction.

Green mirids present a significant problem to the cotton industry in Australia. Whereas these bugs are believed to have been controlled incidentally in the past when broad spectrum insecticides were applied regularly against bollworms, they now warrant control in their own right. Green mirids are known for invading early season cotton and then "tipping out" terminals and damaging squares. Although such damage does not usually reduce yield, it does delay maturity by about a week (Chinajariyawong 1988). The risk associated with a delayed harvest is generally not acceptable to growers.

The mirids that invade cotton have been postulated to come from one of two sources, either from nearby crops (lucerne and safflower, for example) or from a distance on storm fronts. Interpretation of the ecology and pest status of the bugs has been seriously hampered by a lack of understanding of the species status of the various green mirid populations that are present in the field. For example, Chinajariyawong (1988) documented the presence of two species of similar-looking mirids in Queensland cotton, and suggested the presence of a third species.

The information available on cotton green mirids is rather anecdotal and information about the relationship of the pest to dryland cotton is poor. The general objective of these two projects was to address this lack of information and to build a sound understanding of green mirids and their control in relation to cotton. The specific objectives of the study are outlined in the following section.