

C/ A SURVEY OF INSECTS ASSOCIATED WITH
SOYBEAN, Glycine max L. WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO THE BIOLOGY OF Plusia
orichalcea FABRICIUS (LEPIDOPTERA :
NOCTUIDAE)

By

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A thesis submitted in part fulfilment for
the Degree of Master of Science (Agricultural
Entomology) in the University of Nairobi.

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DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

A.W. Kamau

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DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor.

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ABSTRACT

The current need of a good source of cooking oil and the existing great need for cheaper but more balanced diets in Kenya has greatly increased the economic importance of soybean production. This study was initiated to determine insect pests associated with this crop, the potential natural enemies associated with these pests, and the distribution, sequence and complexity of attack in relationship to plant development.

The survey was started in September 1974 and ended in August 1975. Sampling was mainly performed on small experimental plots in Western and Central provinces. A total of 84 insect species both destructive and beneficial, were identified from all the collections. Many of these insect species were uncommon. Abundance and incidence of occurrence of each insect species varied with both the geographical location of the crop and the season. It was noted that only a few insect species caused significant damage. The most outstanding among these was the golden-wing moth, Plusia orichalcea F. Studies of its biology and parasites were conducted.