



# MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## Recommendation Sheet

April 2001, No. 125\*

### CONTROL OF *Pulvinaria iceryi* (Signoret) 'Le Pou à Poche Blanche'

*Pulvinaria iceryi* (Signoret), le 'Pou à poche blanche', lives on green plant tissues of sugar cane and many other grasses.

On sugar cane, its usual site is the undersurface of the leaf blade. Infestation in sugar cane causes reduction or stoppage of growth, purple or yellow discoloration of leaves and premature death of leaves and shoots.

Plants which survive remain weak and may eventually die or fail to ratoon after harvest.



Larvae and adults of *Pulvinaria iceryi* with white ovisacs on a sugar cane leaf

### CONTROL MEASURES

Several species of parasitoids and predators normally keep the population of *Pulvinaria iceryi* under control. Management of this pest is geared towards measures which would favour the development of these beneficial insects.

The following actions should be taken:

In case of slight infestation i.e. presence of larvae and few adults with ovisacs (protective cases enclosing eggs) and very few yellowing leaves

- ⇒ carry out a thorough trashing and remove all yellowing leaves
- ⇒ monitor these fields and in case of reappearance of yellow leaves, repeat trashing
- ⇒ harvest and stubble shave these fields as early as possible.

In case of severe infestation

- ⇒ destroy foci of infestation by cutting back the cane shoots and leaving them to dry out in situ between the rows, to allow natural enemies which are on them to disperse
- ⇒ **never** burn infested fields or cane debris
- ⇒ during the crop season, if millable canes are present, harvest and stubble shave infested fields as soon as possible. Closely monitor the young regrowths and cut back in case of re-infestation
- ⇒ **do not replant** fields adjacent to infested ones until the outbreak subsides
- ⇒ **do not allow** field workers to move from infested to healthy fields
- ⇒ do not apply insecticides, to allow natural enemies to regain the ascendancy they normally have over this pest.

\* This Recommendation Sheet cancels Recommendation Sheet No 80 (April 1994)

