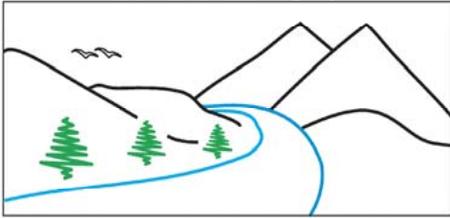


NRESi



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. Kishan R. Sambaraju

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Friday
Feb. 13, 2009

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 238

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT 3:20 PM

Studies on Behavioral Ecology & Reproductive Success of the Indianmeal Moth, a Pest of Stored Foods

Cereal grains such as wheat are typically stored in grain silos and large grain bins after harvest, and then eventually processed into finished products in food processing plants. These food storage ecosystems are inhabited by a variety of arthropod pests such as mites and insects, and among the insect pests, beetles and moths cause extensive qualitative and quantitative losses to stored food. The Indianmeal moth, *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), is one of the most important moth pests infesting foods in storage. Larvae cause the most damage by feeding and spinning silken webs in the food whereas adult moths live to mate and lay eggs. Understanding the behavioral ecology of adult moths could help in developing safer pest management strategies in the future. In this seminar, I will present experimental procedures and outcomes of studies that were conducted to assess the behavioral responses of Indianmeal moth to several food media and to light, and provide a description of the female oviposition behavior.