

Life-cycle of *Sesamia nonagrioides* and *Ostrinia nubilalis* in maize cultivars of NW Spain (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Pyralidae)

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Sesamia nonagrioides Lef. and *Ostrinia nubilalis* Hbn. are the main pests of maize in NW Spain. To obtain basic information on the life cycle of both species on maize, we have carried out a monitoring of the changes in their abundance in several locations through 1990–1995. The presence of both species was variable between and within localities and does not seem to follow any kind of relationship. The attacks of both species were very intense in 1995, achieving 100% of damaged plants in two plots and 30% in a third one. In several plots and years we found more than one larvae per plant at the moment of harvest. The captures made with pheromone traps indicate the existence of two generations, in May and July–August. The larvae of first generation does not attack maize, but by September, most plants have been colonized by *S. nonagrioides* and, in a lesser degree, by *O. nubilalis* larvae. Larvae of *S. nonagrioides* and *O. nubilalis* overwinter inside the dead plants of maize, that are usually led in the fields after harvesting by most farmers. Given the mild winter temperatures of coastal Galicia, most of them survive until the next spring, and produce the adults of first generation. Cultural methods (e.g. destruction of plant stems) and the use of resistant maize genotypes could improve the management of maize borers, diminishing their economic damages.