

# Cocoa Mirids: Introduction

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- About 40 species in 9 genera of Miridae attack cultivated cocoa worldwide (a few ± smallish islands have escaped attack)<sup>1</sup>.
- 6 endemic genera attack cocoa in West Africa having adapted from native woody hosts. Similarly, indigenous *Helopeltis* spp. in the Far east have adapted to attack cocoa.
- Typically, mirids are serious pests of pods and young shoots, causing die-back of canopies in West Africa, Central and South America and in the Far East.

<sup>1</sup> Entwistle P F. 1972. *Pests of Cocoa*. Bristol: Longman.

- **Sustainable mirid control is essential**
- **Insecticides successful since the 1940's**
- **Ecologically sustainable control is market led**
- **Mirid-resistant varieties are being sought, but may not be sustainable with *Calonectria* die-back possible**
- **If effective, sex pheromones and mycopesticides should provide sustainable control**