

Field Notes
June 21, 2010
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Last week I showed you photographs of spider mite damage in rice. Those photographs were of plants in the greenhouse at the experiment station. Later in the week I met Stuart Gauthier in Vermilion and he took me to the field where he had found the plants we first examined. The close up of the leaf at right was taken in that field. It is pretty obvious that spider mites were also the problem in the field. We wanted to make sure we were not looking at two similar, but different problems. They were the same. This is definitely a first for me. The photo here was taken with a micro lens which indicates you can probably see them without serious magnification. Stuart could see them without magnification while I had to use a hand lens. A few of them are circled. The white patches are where they have fed.



At left is a critter we did not see as much of this spring as we did last year. This is the adult of the Colaspis beetle whose grub feeds on the roots of rice (and other plants). This one was on red stem. It presented an opportunity to photograph it for your use later on. They are often very common on soybeans.

At right are two views of a plant collected from a field of CL151 in Acadia parish this morning. Last week Doug Leonards brought one of these to my office. I knew it was rice, but beyond that could not be sure. One thing I wanted to eliminate is a disease called Bakanae disease which has been reported in California and other parts of the world. We have not found it in Louisiana yet. I asked Doug to let me know if he found any more in flower and he did this morning. It is obviously a lot taller than CL151. Its internodes were greater than 4 inches long. It was glabrous (smooth). Individual spikelets are very long and slender and have a short awn on the lemma (the bigger part of the hull).

Dr. Groth contacted a pathologist in California, Dr. Chris Greer, and they discussed the plants. Dr. Greer is very confident it is NOT Bakanae disease.

Several years ago similar plants started showing up in several locations in the state. Some time after that Dr. Pat Bollich attended a conference in Mexico where he saw similar plants in a greenhouse. I think he said they were *Oryza latifolia*. However, when I tried to key this plant out it would not fit that species. I really do not know if it is another species or some odd form of *O. sativa* the species we grow. I will try to collect some later if more show up and let you know if we figure it out.

The reason Bakanae disease was brought into question is because it causes plants to grow taller than normal. It also causes sterility. This plant appeared to be fertile even though it had not yet flowered.





I have had more calls this year where fields were flooded very late for one reason or another. Most of the time it was because it was planted to a Clearfield variety and they could not get it sprayed because of wind or rain. In years past we would have had to establish a flood to maintain some semblance of weed control then spray later or use granular Ordram for grass control. The Clearfield system and the herbicides we have today allow farmers to hold down weeds without water even though I do not recommend doing it that way. This rice was suffering from lack of nitrogen and had only recently been flooded. It was almost at green ring.

The crop this year is going to be late in Louisiana because too many fields were flooded late. Rice will not make significant growth until a permanent flood is established in conventional culture.



I have not put a bonus question in Field Notes in a while so I thought I would this week. What is the term for the phenomenon being shown in the photograph at left? It has been mentioned in a few past issues of Field Notes.