SPRING EMERGENCE AND SEASONAL BIOLOGY OF
THE COLORADO POTATO BEETLE (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) IN IRAN
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ABSTRACT

The Colorado potato beetle (CPB), *Leptotarsa decemlineata* Say, had been a quarantined pest in Iran until 1984. It was observed in outbreak intensities throughout the northwestern region of the country, in Ardebil plain, during 1984. Spring emergence of the overwintering adult beetles and seasonal biology of the insect was determined in a two year study. The overwintered beetles began to emerge in the third week of May in both years and the emergence peaked in early June. Most of the overwintered adults oviposited in late May and early June. Larvae developed mainly in June and entered the soil for pupation by the end of June. First generation adults emerged in early July and oviposited in mid-July. Most of the larvae developed between July 15 and August 15. The second generation adults began to emerge in mid-August. The beetle has two generations per year in Ardebil, but since the development of the second generation coincided with the declining temperatures in late August, the majority of the second generation larvae perished before pupation. Under the Ardebil climatic conditions, the developmental period for the first and second generation CPB was about 43 and 48 days respectively.