



## OUR NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST



**Dr. Shafique Ahmed Memon**  
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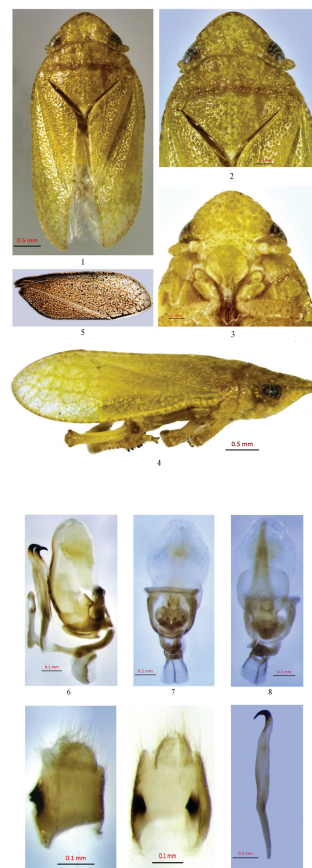
With over 15 years of academic and research experience, he holds a PhD in Entomology from Universiti Putra Malaysia, specializing in artificial diets and biological performance of green lacewings, and earned his BSc and MSc (Hons) from Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam. His expertise spans beekeeping, biological control, IPM, botanical pesticides, and sustainable crop protection, with over 60 research publications and extensive supervision of postgraduate research.

## NEW INSIGHTS INTO PAKISTAN'S INSECT DIVERSITY: TETTIGOMETRIDAE RECORDED FOR THE FIRST TIME

*Tettigometra ziaratensis* sp. nov. is described from Ziarat, Balochistan, Pakistan, representing the first record of both the genus *Tettigometra* Latreille, 1804, and the family Tettigometridae in the country. Although Pakistan possesses a rich and diverse planthopper fauna, this family had remained undocumented until now, highlighting a significant gap in previous faunistic studies. This discovery marks the first record of *Tettigometra* from the northern part of Balochistan Province, substantially expanding the known geographical distribution of the genus. The new species shows affinities with other members of *Tettigometra* but can be reliably distinguished by the rounded posterior corner of the subocular plate and a pointed, slightly elevated aedeagal tooth.

*Tettigometra ziaratensis* sp. nov. was collected at an altitude of approximately 2400 m, a finding consistent with earlier studies reporting several *Tettigometra* species from elevated regions in Iran (Mozaffarian et al., 2018). To support accurate identification and future comparative studies, DNA barcoding (COI gene) has also been provided. This discovery not only enriches Pakistan's insect biodiversity records but also emphasizes the importance of continued taxonomic exploration in understudied regions.

**Article By: Dr. Kamran Sohail, University of Agriculture, Peshawar**



## CONDOLENCE



It is with great sorrow that Mr. Azhar Javaid (Senior Scientific Officer at the National Agricultural Research Centre, NARC) has been passed away on January 31, 2026. All of you are requested to please pray for his highest rank in Jannat-ul-Firdous.



## FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$55,000 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR PEST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

The Pest Management Foundation has announced the availability of up to \$55,000 to support applied pest management research for 2026. Researchers are invited to submit a 1-2 page preliminary proposal by March 6, 2026, outlining project objectives, methods, timeline, and requested funding.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation is committed to advancing the pest management industry through education, research, and outreach by funding projects that deliver measurable, real-world benefits to industry professionals and the communities they serve.

The Foundation seeks research proposals that address practical challenges in professional pest control operations, with priority given to projects demonstrating clear industry applicability.

### Key focus areas include;

- improving service effectiveness
- enhancing employee productivity
- reducing operational costs
- identifying new service opportunities
- gaining insights into pest biology and behavior
- developing sustainable pest management solutions.

Researchers are required to submit a 1-2 page preliminary proposal by March 6, 2026, outlining project objectives, methods, timelines, and requested funding. All submissions will be reviewed by the Foundation's Scientific Review Committee, with selected applicants invited to submit full proposals.

Projects must be completed within 18 months, and funding will be released on a milestone basis, with 75% provided at project start and the remainder upon submission of the final report. For inquiries or submissions, contact [foundation@pestworld.org](mailto:foundation@pestworld.org).

**PAKISTAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Contest Review Outcome & Deadline Extension**

We sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm shown by all participants. After careful review, our Board of Entomologists has decided that no entry currently meets the required standard to declare a winner. Therefore, the deadline has been extended to **February 28, 2026**.

Participants who have already paid the fee will remain eligible and may resubmit their entries using the same payment proof.

**Seek reference images in our official what's app group.**

REGISTER VIA

<https://forms.gle/fts4vyQoAWbdIViIA>

**Submission Requirements**

- Unique Insect Species
- High-resolution image quality
- Original, unpublished photograph
- Clearly identifiable

**Board of Entomologists**  
Dr. Muhammad Soeëd  
Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mirza  
Mr. Abdullah Qamar

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## CASTOR SEMI-LOOPER POSES SERIOUS RISK TO CASTOR PCR IN LASBELA

The castor semi-looper (*Achaea janata*) has emerged as a major defoliating pest of castor (*Ricinus communis*) in the Lasbela District of Balochistan. Widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions, this insect causes severe leaf damage that reduces photosynthesis, weakens plant growth, and leads to significant yield losses.



Although castor is its primary host, *A. janata* is highly polyphagous and feeds on more than 80 plant species, including fruit crops, legumes, vegetables, and ornamental plants. This wide host range allows the pest to persist throughout the year and spread rapidly between crops. The larval stage is the most destructive, feeding aggressively on castor leaves and often causing skeletonization or complete defoliation.

Heavy infestations delay flowering, reduce seed formation, and in severe cases may result in crop failure. Effective management relies on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. Cultural measures such as field sanitation, removal of alternate hosts, and regular monitoring are essential. Early-stage infestations can be reduced through hand-picking, conservation of natural enemies, and the use of biopesticides like *Bacillus thuringiensis* and entomopathogenic fungi. Chemical control should be applied only when necessary and at economic threshold levels. Adopting timely and integrated control strategies is critical to minimizing losses and ensuring sustainable castor production in the region.

**Article By: Dr. Ghulam Ali Bugti, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Science (LUAWMS)**

**“Open Call for Articles Submission. Get Your Quality Research Recognized.”**

