



Pest Management Foundation Announces \$55,000 Research Funding for 2026

The Pest Management Foundation has announced up to \$55,000 in funding for applied pest management research in 2026 to support projects that provide practical benefits to the pest control industry.

Priority will be given to research addressing operational challenges, improving service effectiveness, enhancing productivity, reducing costs, exploring pest biology and behavior, and promoting sustainable pest management solutions.

Researchers must submit a 1-2 page preliminary proposal by March 6, 2026 outlining objectives, methods, timeline, and funding requirements. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Projects must be completed within 18 months, with funding released in milestones 75% at project start and the remainder after the final report.

For submissions or inquiries, contact foundation@pestworld.org

Plant protection dept undergoes major shakeup

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Division has initiated a major administrative reshuffle and disciplinary action within the Ministry of National Food Security and Research over alleged regulatory malpractice in the Department of Plant Protection (DPP).



Following a Sindh High Court ruling, Tahir Abbas was removed as Plant Protection Adviser and DG DPP. Dr Attaullah Khan, Deputy Director Dr Muhammad Basit, and Entomologist Muzammil Hussain were later suspended. A fact-finding committee was formed to investigate irregularities in beetle nut import notifications.

Meanwhile, Yasin Murtaza was appointed as the new DG DPP, while the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has launched a criminal inquiry into alleged forged documents used to obtain import permission certificates.

IPM PROFESSIONAL in PAKISTAN



Mr. Aurangzeb Noor

Founder & chairman
Pesteco

Mr. Aurangzeb Noor is regarded as one of the pioneers of the pest management industry in Pakistan. A graduate of Forman Christian College, Lahore (1964), he founded Pesteco in 1967, inspired by modern pest control systems he observed during a visit to the United Kingdom.

With more than 45 years of experience in pest management, he further specialized in termite control through advanced training at Texas A&M University, USA, supported by USAID and the Government of Pakistan. Under his leadership, Pesteco has delivered professional pest management services to foreign embassies, multinational companies, government institutions, and residential clients, contributing significantly to the development of organized pest control services in Pakistan.

First record of *Diapromorpha pallens* in Pakistan with comparative notes on palaeartic species

A recent study on leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae: Cryptocephalinae) in Sindh, Pakistan, has recorded *Diapromorpha pallens* (Fabricius, 1787) for the first time in the country. The research also presents a comparative morphological analysis of four *Diapromorpha* species from the Palaearctic region—*D. dejeanii*, *D. pallens*, *D. pinguis*, and *D. turcica*—to clarify their distinguishing features and improve species identification. The findings highlight the rich yet underexplored insect biodiversity of the region and stress the need for further faunal studies.

Brief Description:

The beetle is about 5 mm long, oval-shaped, and orange in color with a black head and short serrated antennae.



Figure 2. A. General habitus of *Diapromorpha pallens*. B. Dorsal view; C. Ventral view; D. Lateral view; E. Front view of the head. F. General habitus of *Diapromorpha pinguis*. G. Dorsal view; H. Ventral view; I. Lateral view; J. Front view of the head.

The pronotum is smooth and orange with a transverse depression, while the elytra are orange with coarse punctures.

Material Examined:

Specimens were collected in 2022 from Khairpur (Baberloi) and Badin (Tando Bhago) districts of Sindh by Muhammad Umar Brohi.

Article by: Umar Brohi et al., 2025

OUR NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST



Dr. Bilal Saeed Khan

Associate Professor of Entomology
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

He specializes in acarology, insect taxonomy, IPM, and biological control. He has discovered around 35 new mite species and published over 69 research papers, contributing significantly to insect biodiversity and pest management research in Pakistan.

He has supervised 200+ postgraduate students and received the Acarology Endowment Fund Scholarship (Ohio State University, USA). In 2019, he was awarded the Gold Medal as Best Entomologist of the Year and is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and the Linnean Society of the UK.

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