OTHER Opuntia FEEDING INSECTS IN MEXICO

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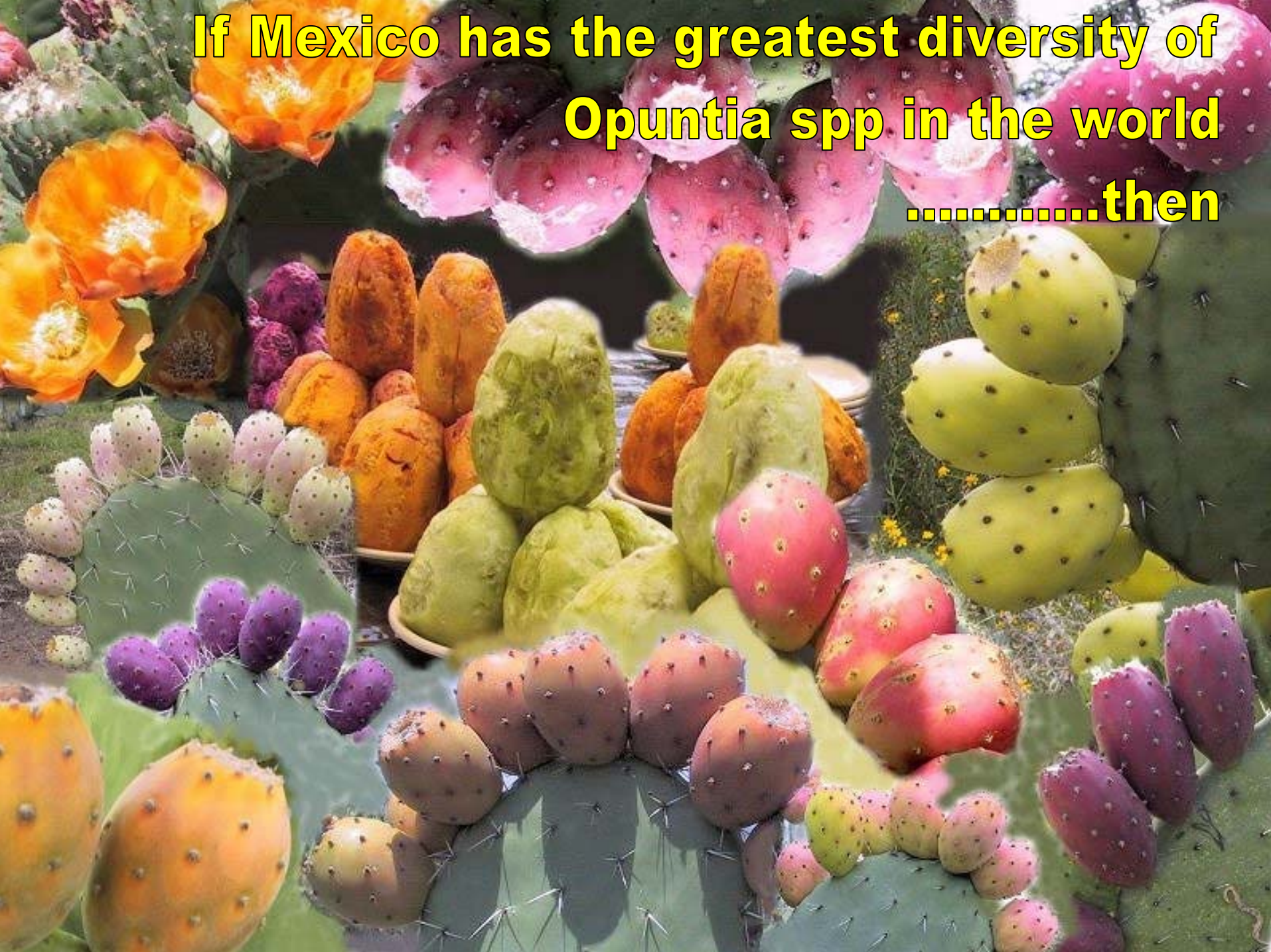
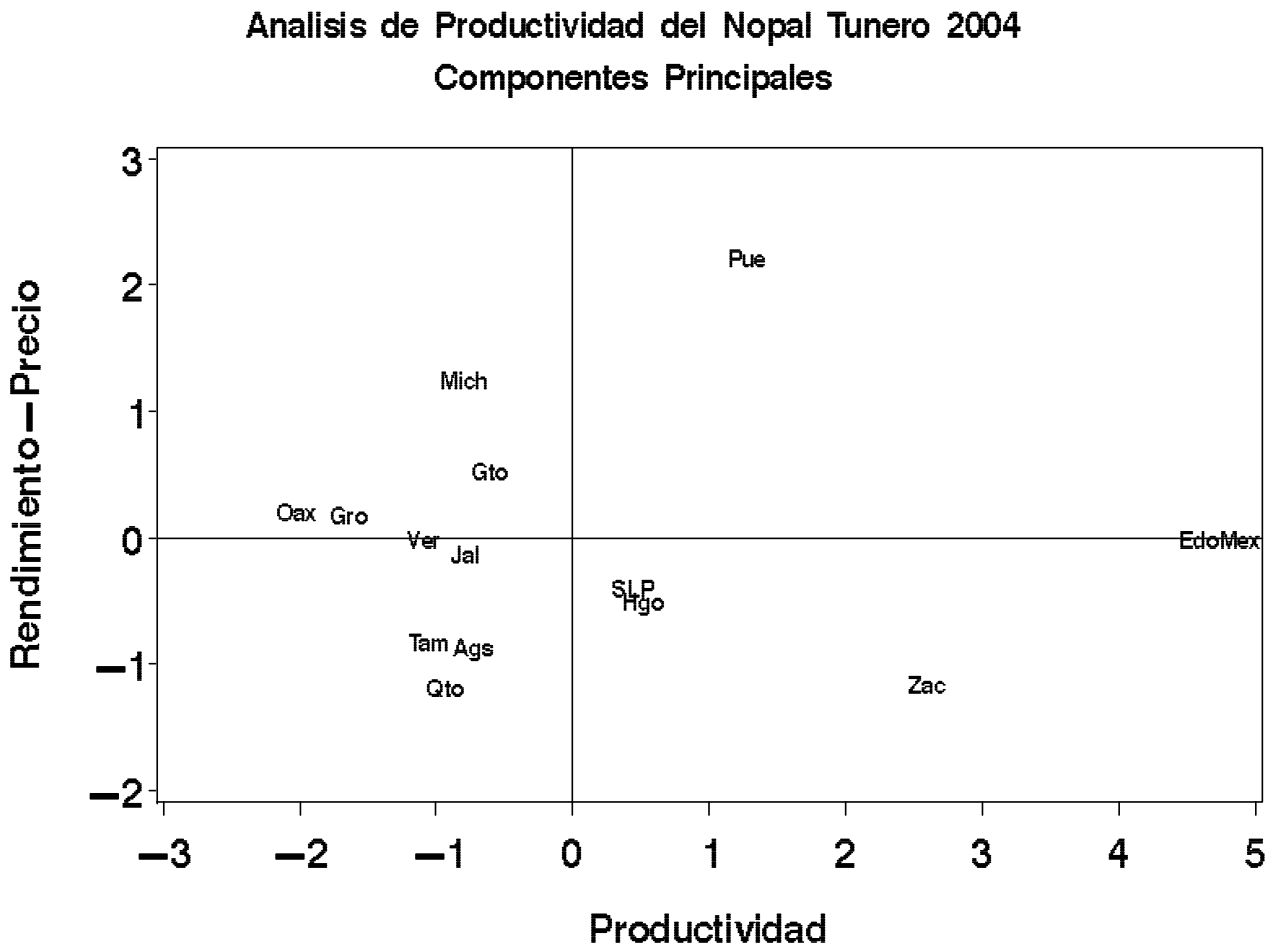

If Mexico has the greatest diversity of
Opuntia spp in the world
.....then

it also has one of the greatest diversity of insect fauna associated with cactus plants

324 spp Asoc. 92 pot. pests in NA, 18 of Econ. Imp.

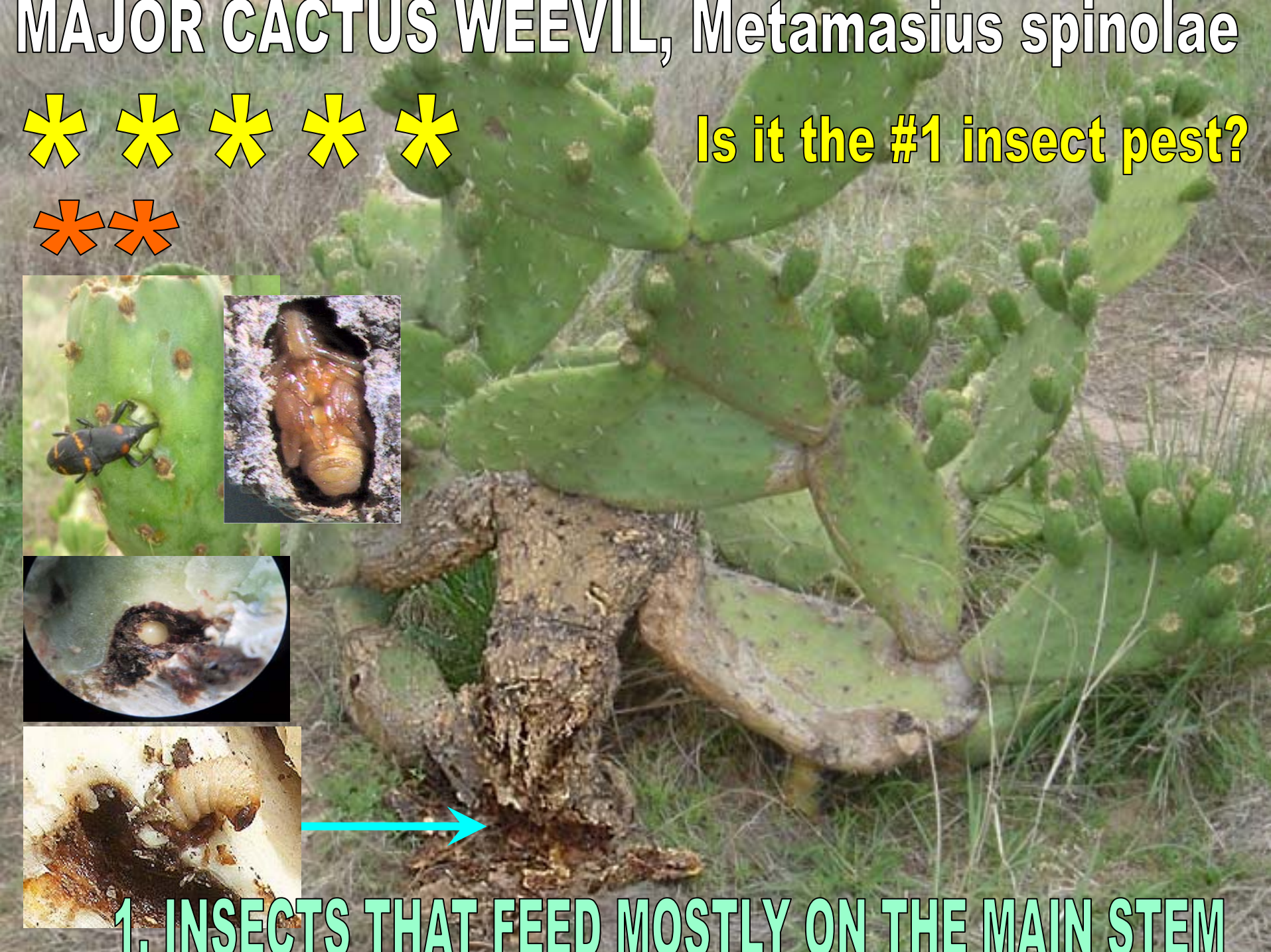
Opuntia crop productivity analysis



Source: SAGARPA-SIACON (2005)

Area planted: 52, 858 has.

MAJOR CACTUS WEEVIL, Metamasius spinolae



WHITE WORM, Laniifera cyclades

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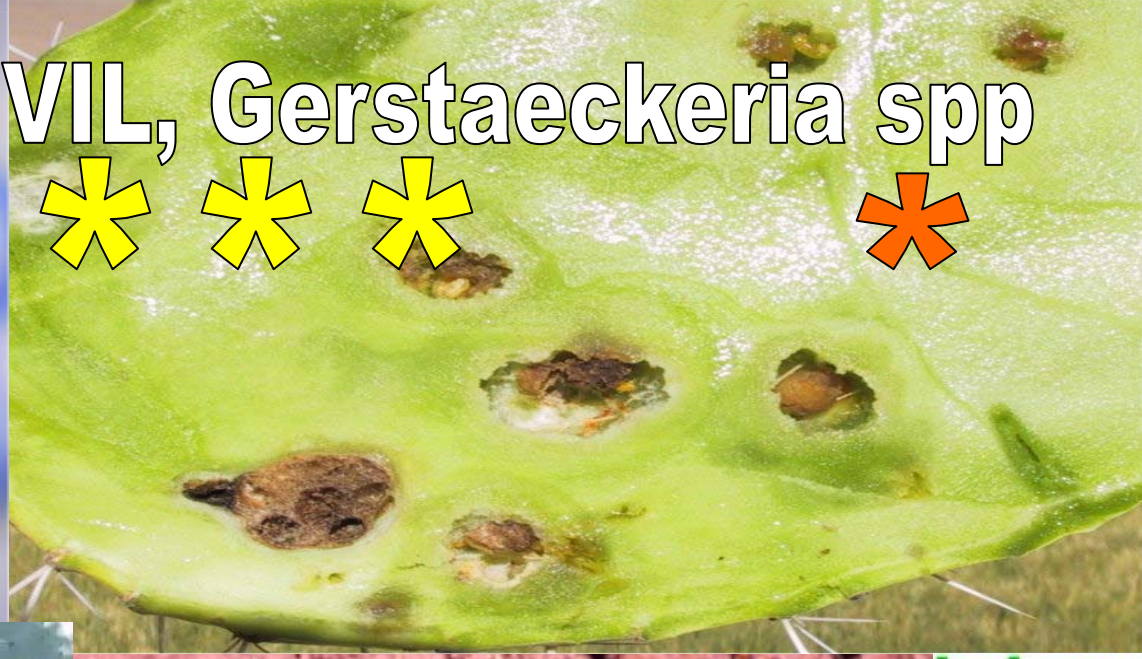
CACTUS BLUE BANDED WORM, Melitara nephelepasa
2. INSECTS THAT FEED MOSTLY ON CLADODES

CLADODE WEEVIL, Gerstaeckeria spp



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CHELINID BUG, Chelinidea tabulata
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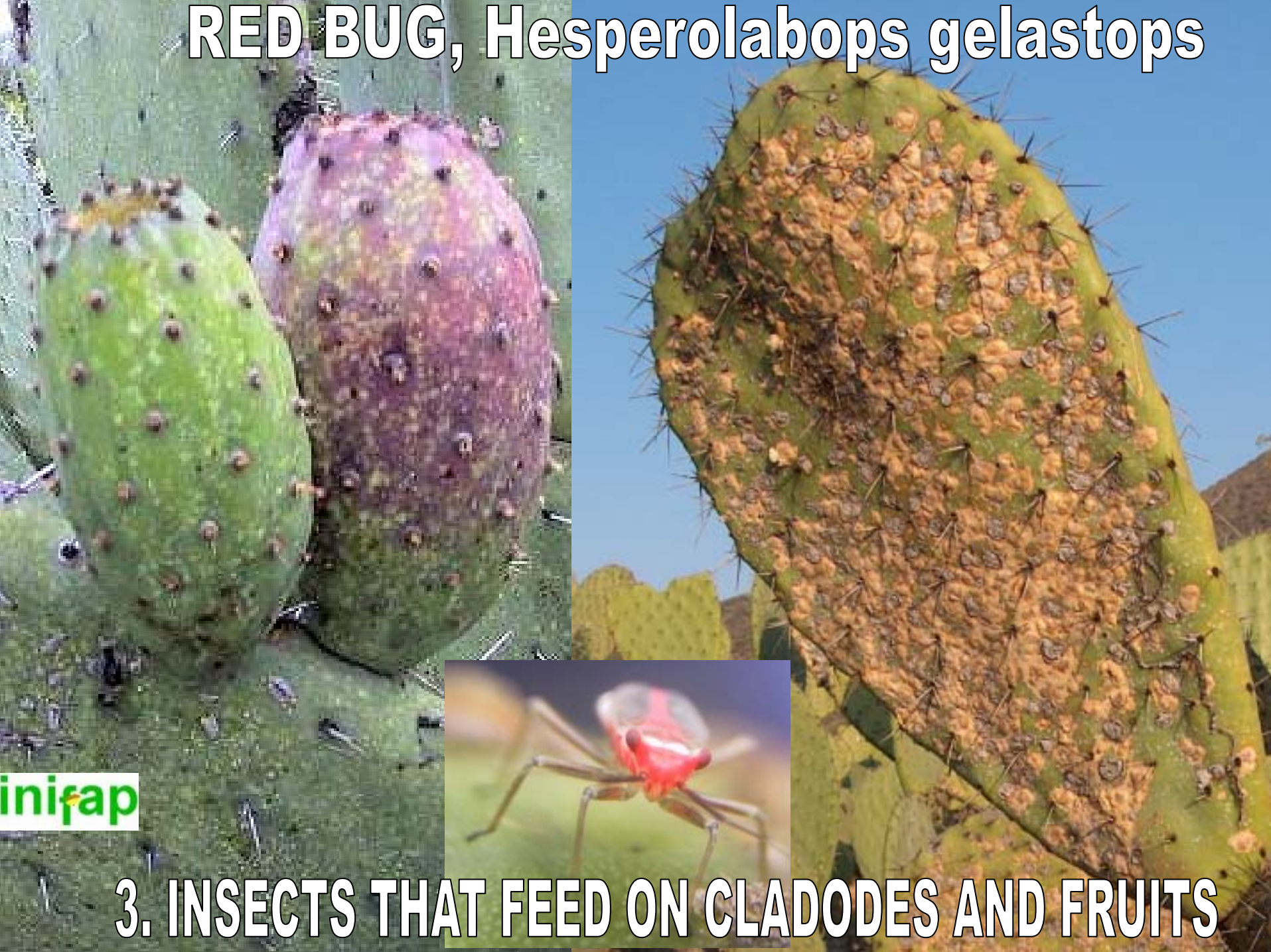
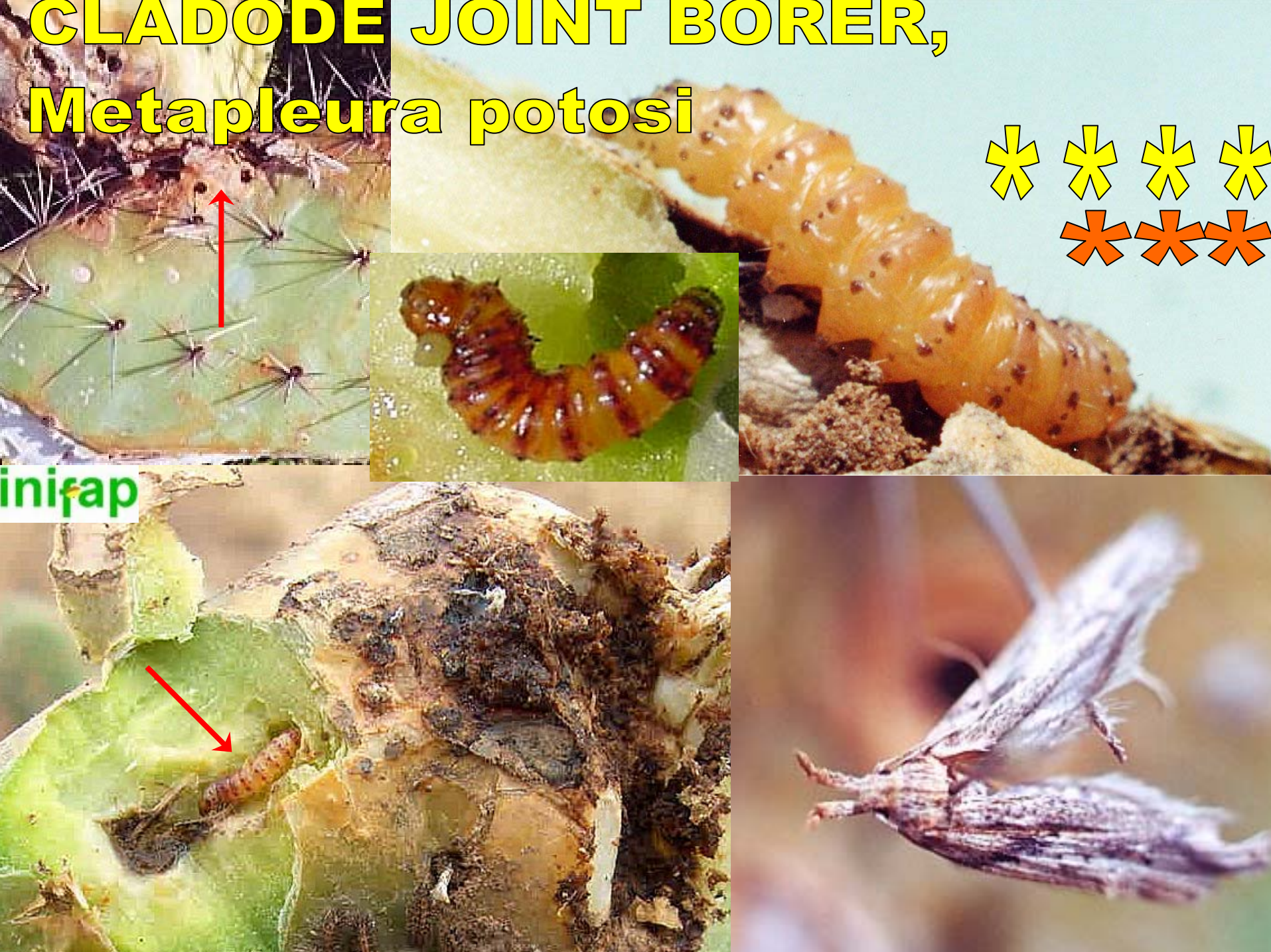
RED BUG, Hesperolabops gelastops

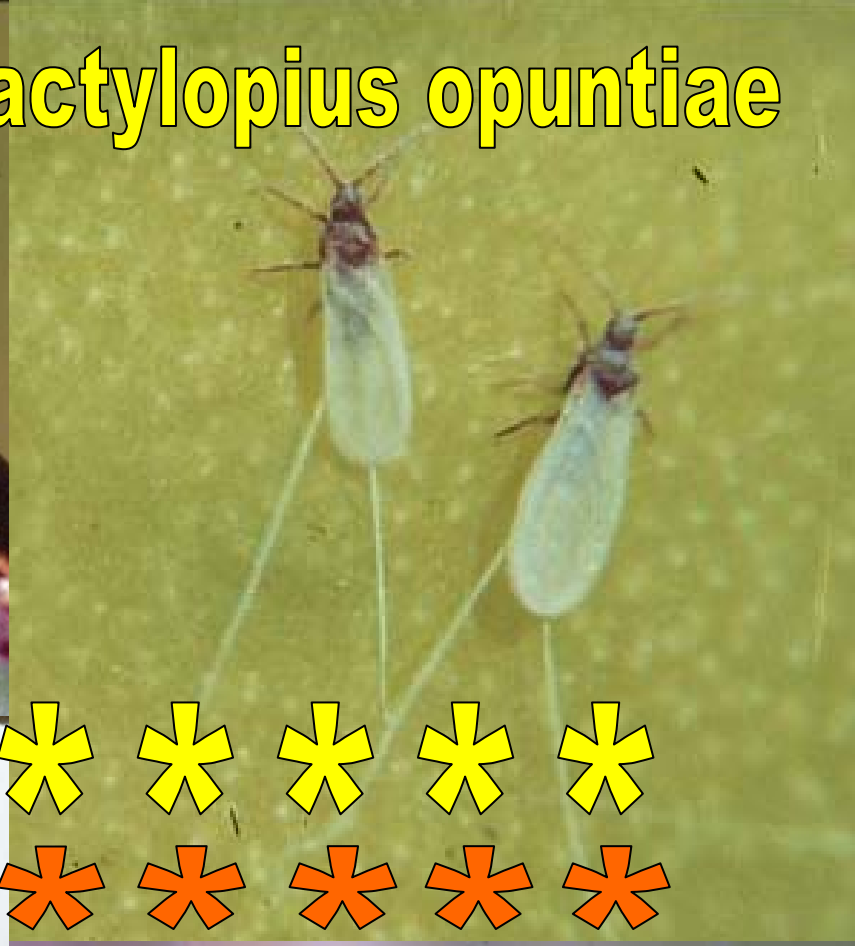


3. INSECTS THAT FEED ON CLADODES AND FRUITS

CLADODE JOINT BORER,
Metapleura potosi



GRANA COCHINILLA, Dactylopius opuntiae



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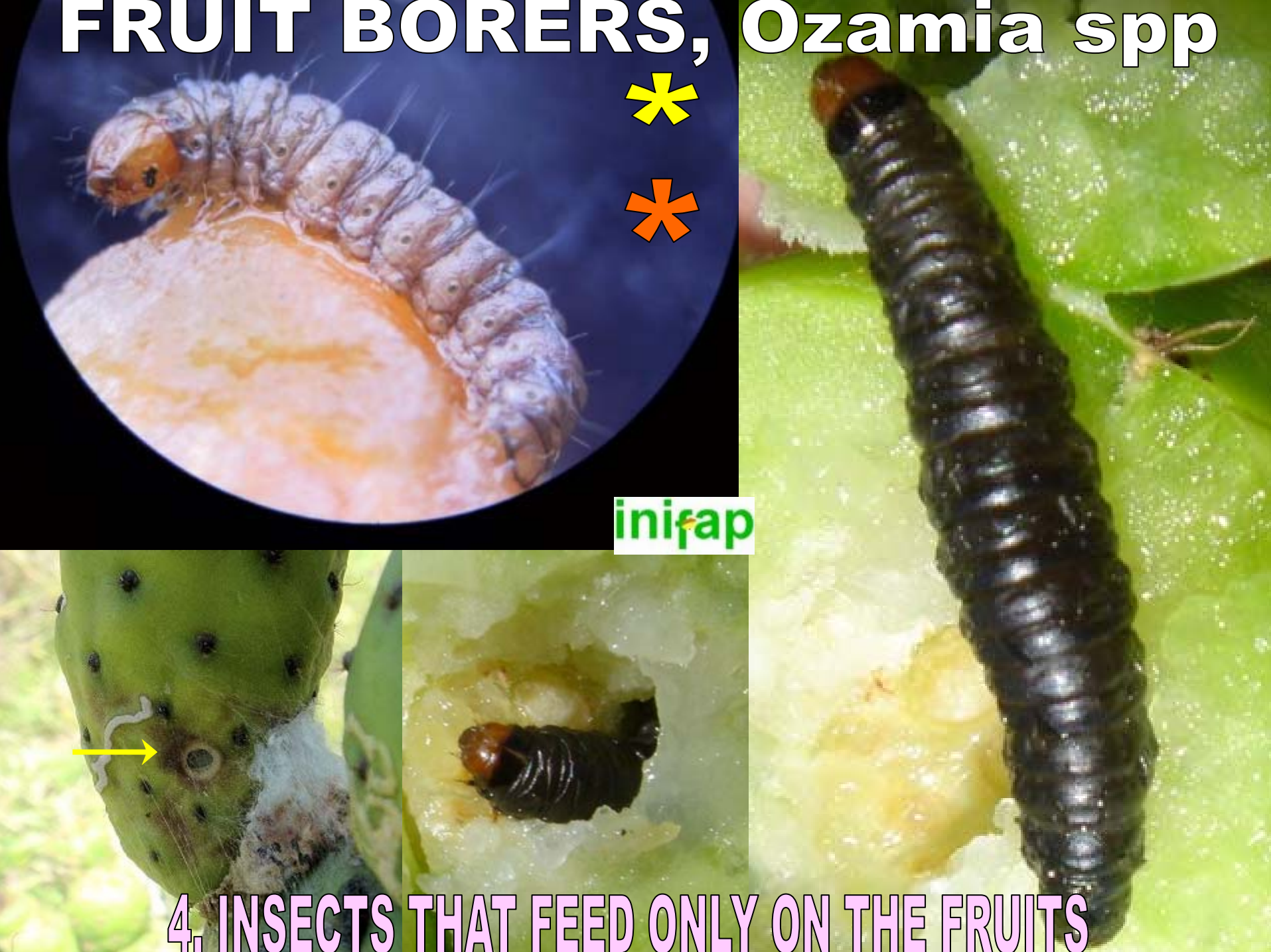
FRUIT BORERS, Ozamia spp



4. INSECTS THAT FEED ONLY ON THE FRUITS

NUMBER OF COLONIES OF Dactylopius opuntia ON DIFFERENT CACTUS CULTIVARS

CULTIVAR	CLADODE	FRUIT
L-3	13.27	6.53
COPENA 1	60.45	70.00
COPENA 15	60.00	46.25
MEXICANA	37.50	32.92

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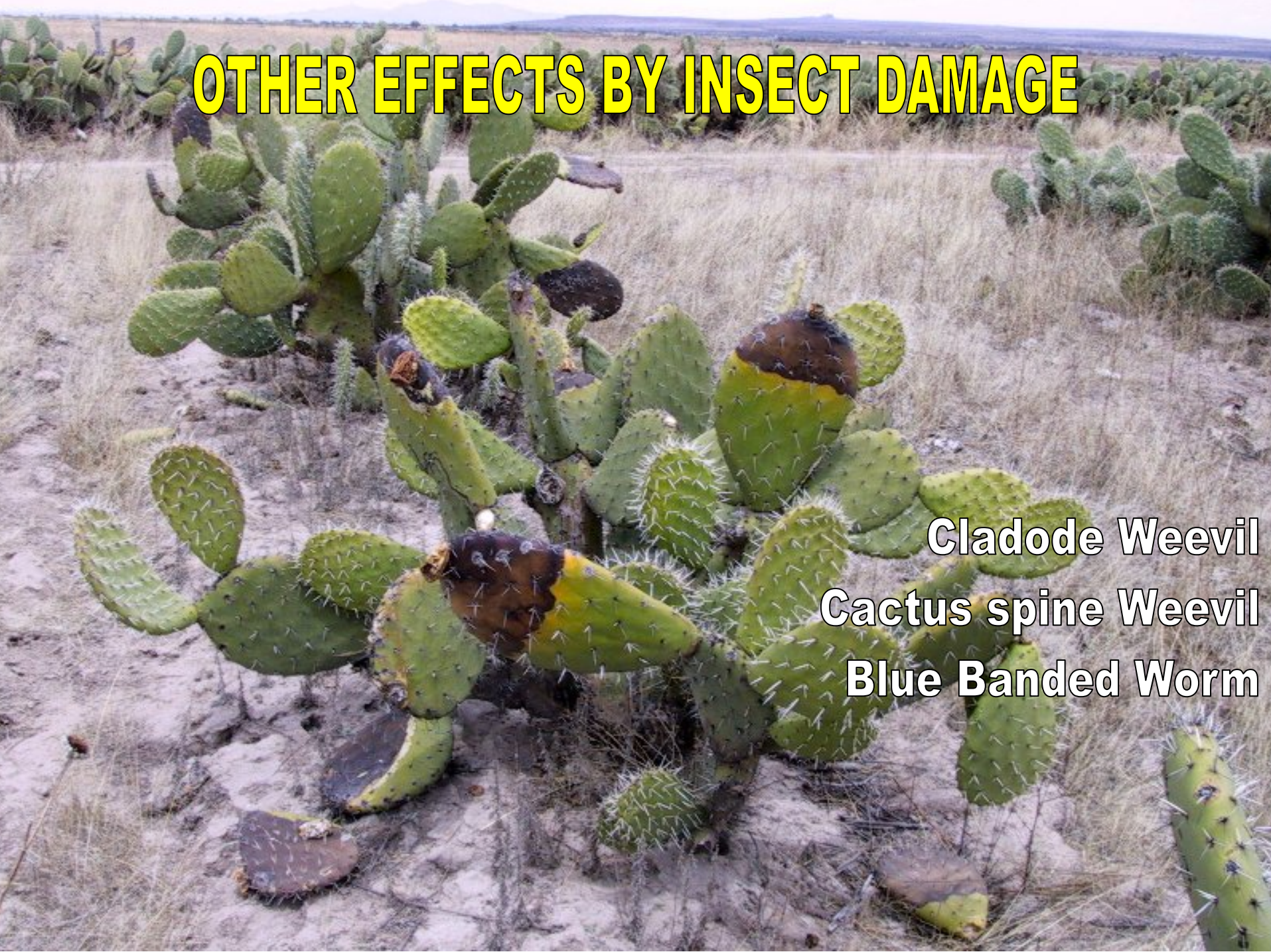
OTHER EFFECTS BY INSECT DAMAGE



Cladode Weevil

Cactus spine Weevil

Blue Banded Worm

NATURAL ENEMIES - PARASITOIDS & PREDATORS

PARASITISM ON PUPAE OF THE CACTUS BLUE BANDED WORM. LA VICTORIA, PINOS, ZAC. SUMMER 2000.

DATE	Ichneu-monidae	*Phorocera texana*	BOTH	Unpara-sitized
13 Sept.	33.3	33.3	33.3	0/3
19 Sept.	50.0	0	16.7	1/6
27 Sept.	0	0	0	4/5
03 Oct.	37.5	25.0	12.5	2/8
17 Oct.	100	0	0	0/3
24 Oct.	100	0	0	0/1

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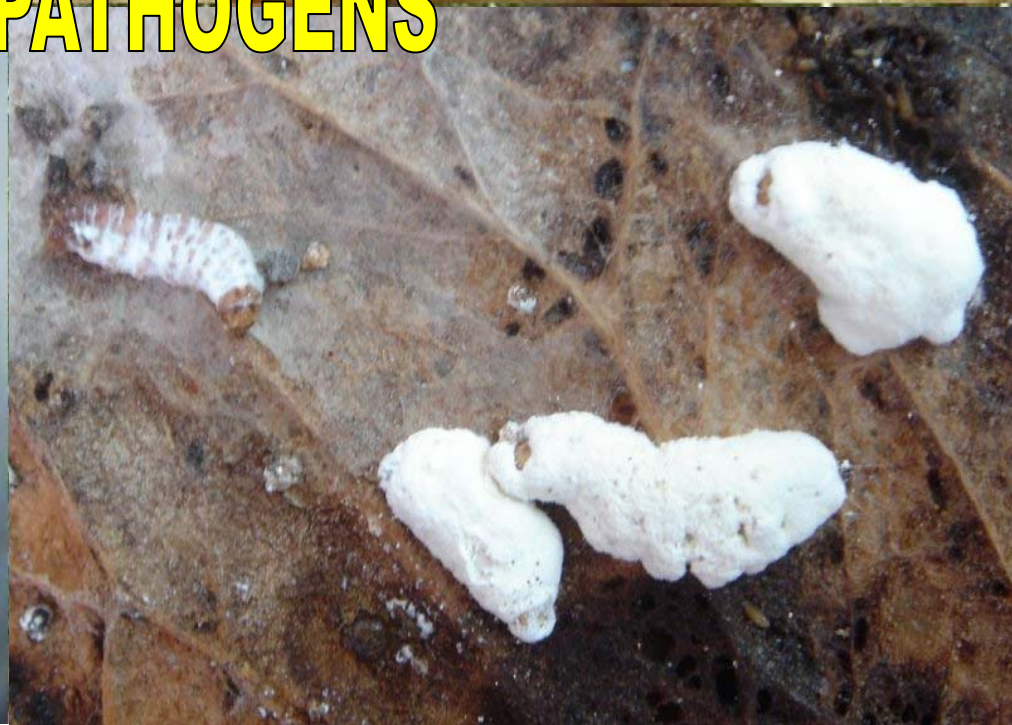
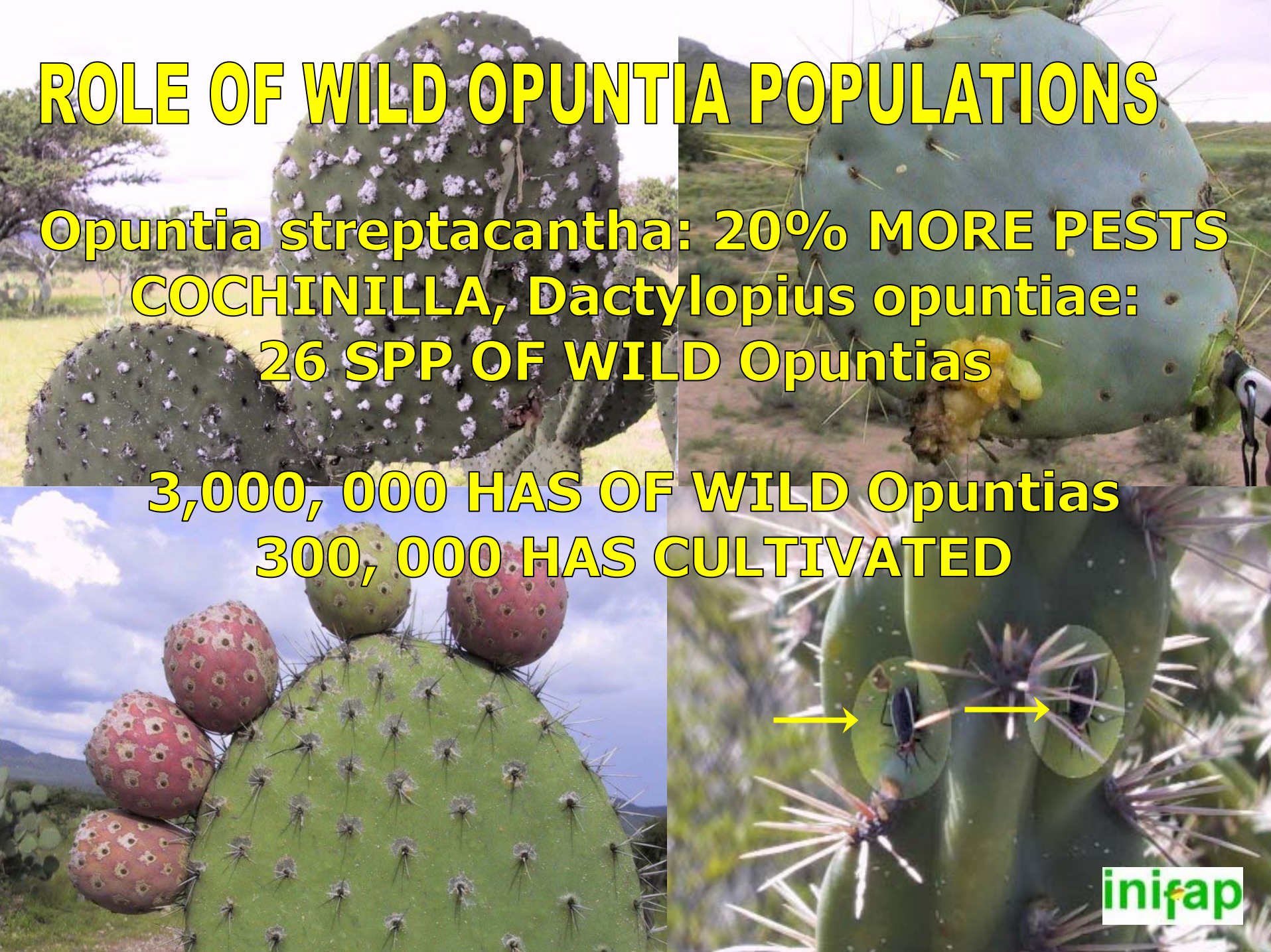
ENTOMOPATHOGENS



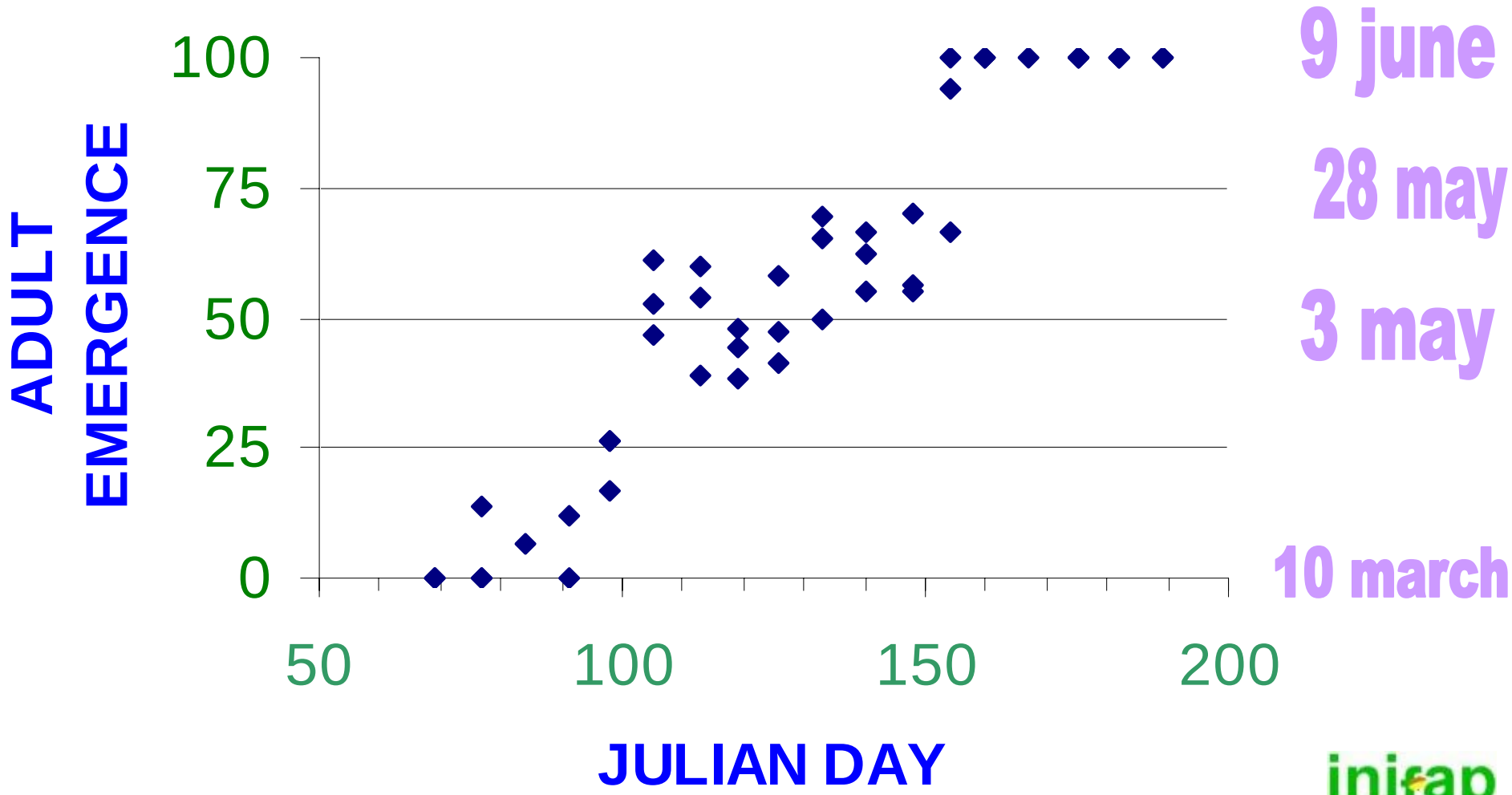
ROLE OF WILD OPUNTIA POPULATIONS

Opuntia streptacantha: 20% MORE PESTS
COCHINILLA, Dactylopius opuntiae:
26 SPP OF WILD Opuntias

3,000, 000 HAS OF WILD Opuntias
300, 000 HAS CULTIVATED



CACTUS AEROLE WEEVIL ON Opuntia ficus india (2003)



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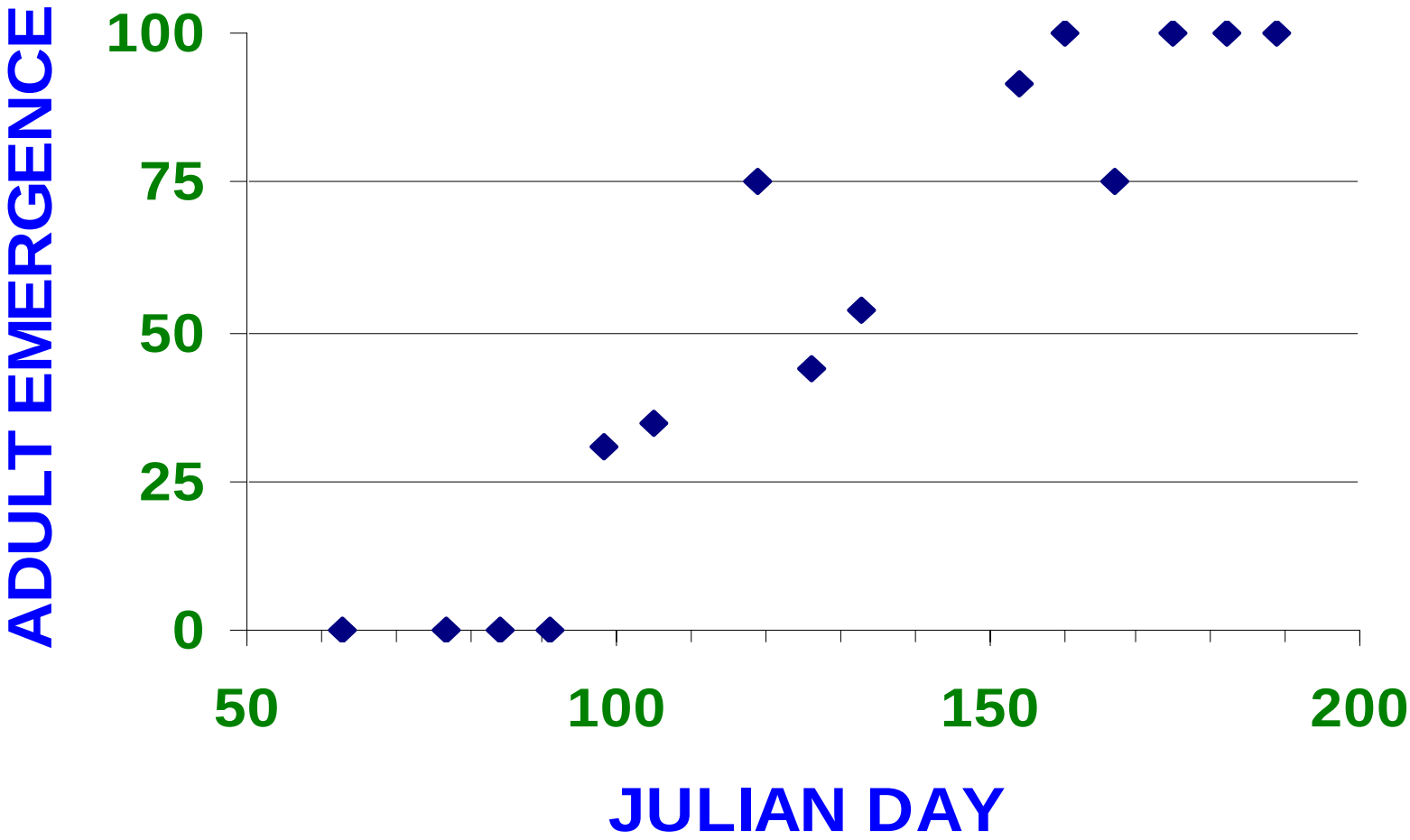
CACTUS AEROLE WEEVIL ON Opuntia streptacantha (2003)



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Hey Cactoblastis: "My house is NOT your house"

Highlands weather not as optimum (cool and dry)

Some natural enemies are waiting for Cactoblastis

It has to compite with some for the same niche

¡¡¡Thank you
for your attention!!!!