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Pests in organically managed *Crotalaria juncea* in southwestern Puerto Rico

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In Puerto Rico there is increasing interest in *Crotalaria juncea* as a cover crop for soil improvement, weed and nematode suppression, and seed production. As more area is sown with *Crotalaria juncea*, pests start to appear in relatively large abundance in this leguminous plant. Commonly occurring undesirable animals feeding on the leaves, pods and seeds of organically-managed *Crotalaria juncea* were identified in plots in Lajas and Isabela, Puerto Rico. In young plants (<1 month after plant emergence) in Lajas, green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) were found feeding on apical and subapical tissue of plants in the external rows of the plots. Iguanas seemed to prefer the *Crotalaria juncea* accessions 'Tropic Sunn' and 'São Paulo' to other accessions growing in the same location. In Lajas and Isabela, beetles (*Ceratoma* spp and *Diabrotica balteata*) were found eating the leaves of plants of all ages, but more abundantly before the flowering stage. Beetles were effectively managed with neem extracts and Ecotrol®. During the reproductive stage of *C. juncea*, heavy infestations of the pod borers *Utetheisa bella* and *Utetheisa ornatrix* were found in both Isabela and Lajas. Young larva of *Utetheisa* fed on leaves and later perforated the pods and ate the developing seeds of *C. juncea*. Unchecked attack of *Utetheisa* caused an estimated seed yield loss of 50%, and even higher in some plots. Management of *Utetheisa* warrants further research in *C. juncea* for seed production.

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