

**AGRICULTURAL ZOOLOGY:
NAMES OF INSECT PESTS
OF THE 'N + V-ING + N' PATTERN**

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ABSTRACT

- *Well knowing a Language for Specific Purposes is a subsidiary condition for any member nation of the European Community. In addition, it can ease documentary work and communication with world scientists. This is why we have always needed linguistic algorithms that allow us to better and quicker understand literature and/ or pairs.*
*Such a pattern characterises the verbal nouns in **-ing** that are often used either attributively or in forming compounds.*

Our paper aims at demonstrating that, as far as the English of agricultural zoology is concerned, these verbal nouns share the same linguistic pattern whose counterpart is a similar pattern in Croatian and Romanian and at advancing a possible instrument in the teaching of the English of Agricultural zoology.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the present research was to see if compound common names designating insect pests in English and built after the same pattern ('Noun + Verbal nouns in *-ing* + Noun') have or not a common general meaning.

- Our hypothesis was that this common meaning is ‘insect pest doing something’, and that it could be useful in the proper understanding and learning of the insect pest common names in English.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- We have inventoried a number of 57 insect pest compound names of the ‘Noun + Verbal nouns in *-ing* + Noun’ pattern, which we then analysed from the point of view of their meaning based on the following linguistic background:
- nouns ending in *-ing* are derived from verbs and express the action of the verb (*the art of building*) or its result (*a new building*), product, material (*cotton wadding*), etc. (Soukhanov 2008);
- verbal nouns ending in *-ing* are often used attributively (*the printing trade*) and in composition (*drinking song*) (Soukhanov 2008);

RESULTS

First, in our analysis of the insect pest compound names we focussed on ‘the type of action’ the insect pests perform. Thus, insect pests (Gordth and Headrick, 2001):

- **bite** (5 occurrences) *cattle* (1 occurrence): *cattle-biting louse* ‘*Bovicola bovis* (Linnaeus): Attacks base of tail, withers and shoulders’ etc.
- **bore** (2 occurrences) *shoots* (1 occurrence): *balsam shoot-boring sawfly* ‘*Pleroneura brunneicornis* (Tohwer)’ etc.

It is interesting to see that the number of the verbs (22) denoting ‘actions’ of the insect pests is smaller compared to the number of the ‘objects’ (26) on which these insect pests act (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of ‘acts’ and ‘objects’ in common names of insect pests of the ‘N + V-ing + N’ pattern

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The number of occurrences of ‘objects’ on which insect pests perform an action is low: 1 occurrence: *ant, balls, blood, bark, cases, mites, pitches, sap, seeds, shoots, tubes and wood*, 2 occurrences: *bananas, cattle, dogs, fruit, goats, horses, mud, nets, roots, scales, and sheep*, and 3 occurrences: *orbs and webs*. In exchange, the most important part of the plant – the *leaf* – records the largest number of occurrences of all – 17! (table 1)

The 1 ‘action’ – 1 ‘same object’ cases represent 21% of the insect pest common names in our corpus: *African ball-rolling dung beetle*, The 1 ‘action’ – 2 ‘same object’ cases represent 14% of the insect pest common names: *root eating beetle* and *root eating fly*. The 1 ‘action’ – 3 ‘same object’ cases represent 16% of the insect pest common names: *leaf-rolling cricket*, *leaf-rolling sawfly*, and *leaf-rolling weevil*;

The 1 ‘action’ – 4 ‘same object’ cases represent 7% of the insect pest common names: *leaf-cutting ant*, *leaf-cutting bee*, *pale leaf-cutting bee*, and *Texas leaf-cutting ant*. The 1 ‘action’ – 6 ‘same object’ cases represent 11% of the insect pest common names: *citrus leaf-eating cricket*, *citrus leaf-eating weevil*, *coconut leaf-eating caterpillar*, *hairy leaf-eating caterpillar*, *large leaf-eating ladybird*, and *lucerne leaf-eating beetle*. The 2 ‘action’ – 1 ‘same object’ cases represent 28% of the insect pest common names: *banana silvering-thrip* and *banana spotting-bug etc.*

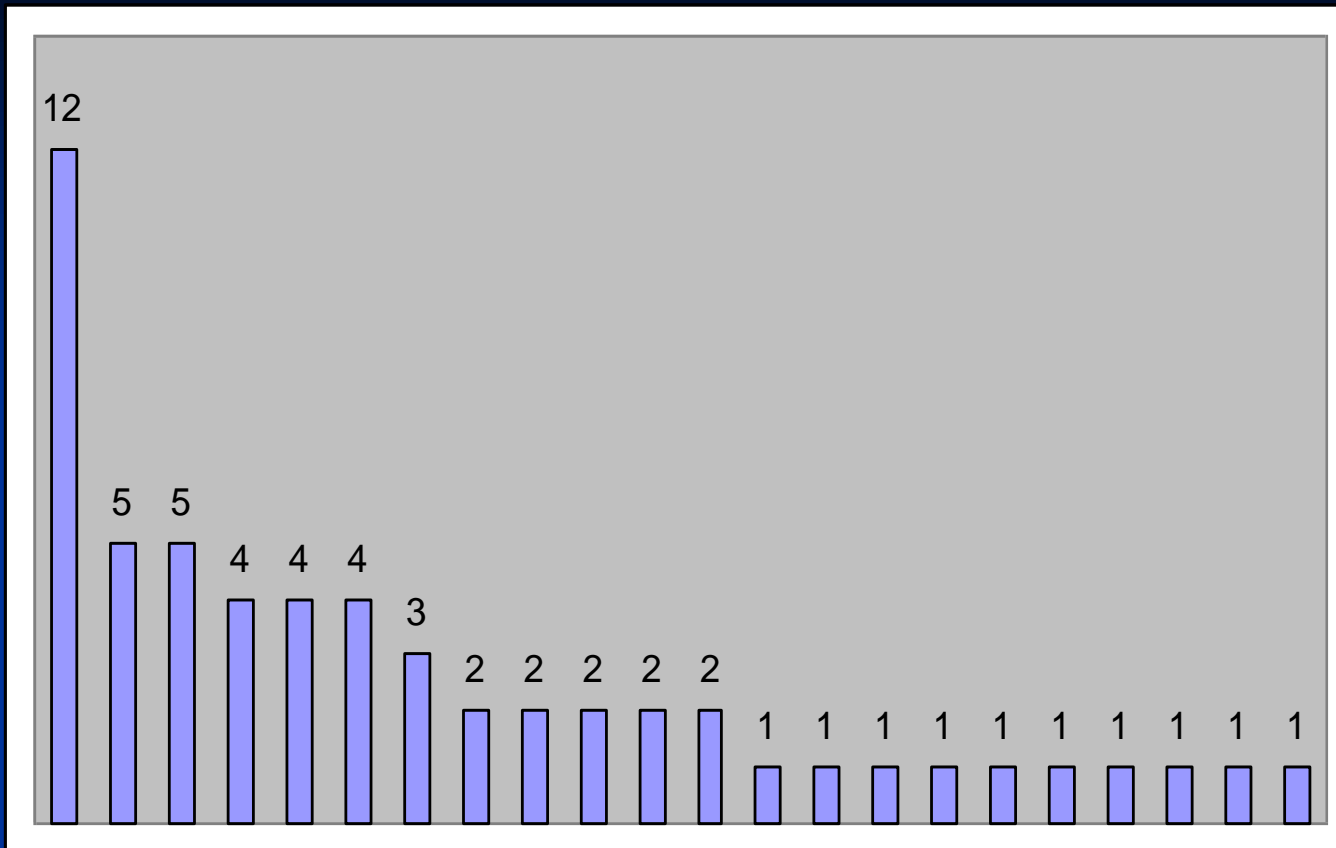


Figure 1 - Number of occurrences of the verbs used attributively in insect pest nouns: 12 eat; 5 bite and suck; 4 cut, roll, and spin; 3 weave; 2 bore, love, make, mine, and spot; 1 cast, feed, fold, gnaw, harvest, mimic, pierce, poison, silver, and web.

CONCLUSIONS

- Compound common names designating insect pests in English and built after the same pattern ('Noun + Verbal nouns in *-ing* + Noun') have a common general meaning, 'insect pest doing something'. Our hypothesis is thus confirmed. In addition, our teaching experience shows that this common meaning is useful in the proper understanding and learning of the insect pest common names in English.
- Additional research could identify other patterns useful in the understanding and learning of specific inventories of terms.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!