Introduction:

White grubs are a pest of commercial crops. The white grubs are also called as root grubs. ‘White grubs’ are among the most destructive and troublesome insect pests all over the world. The term ‘White grubs’ is applied to the larvae of the beetles called as ‘Leaf chafers’ or ‘Chafer beetles’ or ‘May- June’ beetles. The white grubs have been defined as larvae of Melolonthidae (Wolcott, 1933) they belong to the order Coleoptera, Superfamily Scarabaeidae. The Scarabaeidae have three families viz. Scarabaeidae Passalidae and Lucanidae. The Scarabaeidae is again divided into 13 subfamilies, viz., Coprinae, Pleocomiinara, Aegiaiinai, Ochodaeinae, Hybosorinae, Geotrupinae, Glaphyrinae, Acanthocerinae, Troginae, Melolonthinae, Ruttelinae, Dynastinae and Cetoniinae. The White grubs are broad and fleshy, whitish or greyish- white and body is curved in the form of letter “C’. They are easily distinguished from the similar looking by the presence of two rows of minute hairs on the underside of the last segment (Metcalf and Flint, 1962). De Fluiter (1941) described Melolonthid grubs as feeding by preference on roots of plants and certain rutelid and dynastid grubs as normally feeding on organic matter but attacking living roots in its absence. White grubs are serious polyphagus pest all over the world.

The life span of deferent species of white grubs ranges from 1 to 5 years. All exotic species have 2to 5 years life span (Veeresh, 1980). European Chafers lay their eggs in late June; Japanese beetles in July and August. The eggs hatch and the young grubs begin feeding on grass roots within one or two weeks. The grubs feed until fall and then burrow deep into the ground to overwinter. In the spring, the grubs burrow upwards to the grass root level and resume feeding until late May and then transform to the pupal stage. Adult European Chafers emerge about the first week of July, Japanese Beetles about two weeks earlier.
Occurrence of White grubs in India first time was reported by Lefroy (1902). White grub has been reported to cause damage to ground nut, sugarcane, corn, wheat, barley, sugar beets, soybeans, and potatoes. Larval infestations are greatly influenced by soil type or texture. The common economical important species of white grubs found in India are *Holotrichia serrata*, *Holotrichia consaguinea*, *Holotrichia insularis*, *Leucophilis lepidophora*, *Leucophilis cornephora*, *Anomala bengalensis*, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, *Phyllognathus dinoysius*, *Chiloloba orientalis*, *Oxycetonia versicolor*, etc. Near about 300 species of white grubs recorded in India by Shivayogeshwara and Veeresh (1983). In our country ‘white grubs’ is a serious problem due to which they have identified as national pest (Anon, 1975). In recent year white grubs are found in different states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Assam, Gujarath, Harayana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, etc. The infested areas of this pest are more than ten lakh hectares.

In Maharashtra this pest has become serious problem in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Ahmednagar, Buldhana, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nanded, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Beed, Wardha and some part of Pune district (Abraham and Rajendra, 1978; Veeresh, 1975; Lolge and Patil, 1988).

The Khed/Rajgurunagar is the administrative taluka in Pune district, comprising the upper reaches of the Ghod and Bhima rivers which is a part of Northern Western Ghats, India. Khed Taluka is located in 18°51'17"N and 73°53'0"E in the Ghats region of the Sahyadri hills. Last 2 years back it cause major damage to the crops like Paddy, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Potato, etc. in Khed Taluka. In recent years white grubs have assumed a serious pest problem to the tribal area of Khed Taluka.