Stalk-eyed fly (*Diopsis thoracica*)

**Biology**
- It prefers an aquatic habitat.
- The flies have a distinct black thorax and reddish brown abdomen.
- Female flies lay eggs singly on the upper surface of young leaves on mid rib.
- On older plants, eggs are placed in the leaf sheath.
- Peak oviposition occurs about 30 days after transplanting, while oviposition in the leaf sheath occurs about 10 days later.
- Eggs are boat-shaped, striated with a characteristic anterior projection, attached to the leaf with a glue-like substance.
- Each female lays 30 eggs over a 20-day period which hatch after 2-4 days into maggots that infest the crop causing dead hearts.

**Geographical Distribution**
- The stalk-eyed fly occurs in all rice-growing areas.

**Management Strategies**

**1. Cultural control**
- Field sanitation, clipping the tip of seedlings prior to transplantation to eliminate egg masses.
- Use pheromone lures to trap adults flies.

**2. Biological control**
- Inspect regularly for presence of insect pest.
- Destroy and discard infested plants to prevent spread.
- Timely control weeds that may act as reservoirs for the pest.
- Encourage conservation of natural enemies of the pest.

**3. Chemical control**
- In nursery, spray with systemic insecticides before transplanting when the economic threshold of 10% dead hearts of rice seedling is observed.
- Dip roots of seedlings root treatment for 12 or 14 hours before transplanting in recommended insecticide (PCPB, 2015). Vegetative stage at 15 DAT; At panicle initiation, presence of 1 moth or 1 egg mass/m².