

Scientific Note

New Records of Insects in Sugarcane Fields

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Sugarcane plants are infested by many insects and mite pests. A list of pests so far available in Bangladesh has been published (Anonymous, 1979). That list was also supplemented by a list of some parasites and predators. Subsequently, a few more insects and their natural enemies were collected from several places at different times.

The beetles of common white grubs were collected from feeding trees in Pratap farm of Setabgonj Sugar Mills, Dinajpur. Parasite of *Pyrilla* was collected from Parasitized insects at SRTI farm. White mite was collected from the varieties imported from Australia and grown in Gulshan, Dhaka. Parasites of scale insects were collected from BARI Regional Agriculture Research Station at Ishurdi. The specimens were preserved and sent for identification to Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London. The brief information on collection site, host/habitat and taxonomist who identified these are reported here (Table 1).

Most of the white grub adults collected from feeding trees have been assumed to cause damage to the sugarcane roots during their larval stage. Larvae of white grubs with difference in appearance, size, head colour etc. were found in sugarcane fields. It has not been ascertained yet the scale of incidence of the seven species (Table 1). Therefore, the mature larvae are being collected from the fields and reared in the laboratory to get adults so that accurate estimate is possible.

Root aphids also called Ground pearl in Bangladesh is an underground pest and sucks sap from roots and underground part of the new canes and may cause withering and death of tillers. White mites eat the chlorophyll of leaves making chain of spits longitudinally over the lamina.

Table 1. New records of insects, mites and parasites in sugarcane fields (1981-82).

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific name (Family, Order)	Location	Host/Habitat	Identified by	Remarks
A. Insect pests :						
1.	White grubs (Scarabs)	<i>Brahmina</i> sp. Scarabaeidae (Melolonthinae), Coleoptera	STSM	Adults were collected from trees like guava, berry, Jackfruit, mango etc.	R. Madge	Larvae feed on roots and underground parts of sugarcane plant
2.	"	<i>Adoretus versutus</i> Harold Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
3.	"	<i>Anomala polita</i> Blanchard Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
4.	"	<i>Anomala bengalensis</i> Blanchard Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
5.	"	<i>Anomala biharensis</i> Arrow Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
6.	"	<i>Anomala varicolor</i> (Gyllenhal) Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
7.	"	<i>Anomala</i> sp. nr. <i>varicolor</i> (Gyllenhal) Scarabaeidae (Rutelinae), Coleoptera	"	"	"	"
8.	Icerya	<i>Icerya</i> sp. Margarocidae, Homoptera	SRTI Ishurdi	Adults & nymphs found on sugarcane leaf & leaf sheaths.	J. William	Spiny, white may be confused with wooly aphid in early stages.
9.	Root aphid (Ground pearl)	<i>Geoica lucifuga</i> (Zehntner) Aphididae; Homoptera	Carew & Co.	Underground root spaces and soils.	J.H. Martin	
B. Mite pest :						
	White mite	<i>Schizotetranychus andropogoni</i> (Hirst) Tetranychidae, Acarina	Gulshan, Dhaka	Leaf of newly imported sugarcane	—	Also found in Thailand
C. Insect parasites :						
1.	—	<i>Epipyrops</i> sp. Epipyropidae, Lepidoptera	SRTI	Pyrilla nymphs & adults (Leafhopper)	D.J. Carter & J.D. Holloway	"
2.	—	<i>Anabrolepis mayurai</i> Subba Rao Encyrtidae, Hymenoptera	"	Scale insect <i>Melanaspis glomeratus</i> (Green)	B.R. Subba Rao	Also found in India

Epipyrops are ectoparasites of both *Pyrilla* nymphs and adults. They are abundant in nature. *Anabrolepis* are very recently reported as parasites of scale insects in Bangladesh though it is widely distributed in India.

REFERENCE

- Anonymous, 1979. Annual Report (Special Issue) 1973-78, Sugarcane Research Institute, Ishurdi, Pabna. pp. 137-142.