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**First report of false chinch bug, *Nysius inconspicuus* on pearl millet in Gujarat, India****Swati Gamit<sup>1\*</sup>, C. B. Varma<sup>2</sup>, D. B. Sisodiya<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Department of Agri. Entomology, BACA, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, 388110<sup>2</sup>Department of Agri. Entomology, COA, AAU, Vaso, Gujarat, 388110**Corresponding author: swati.gamit2611@gmail.com**

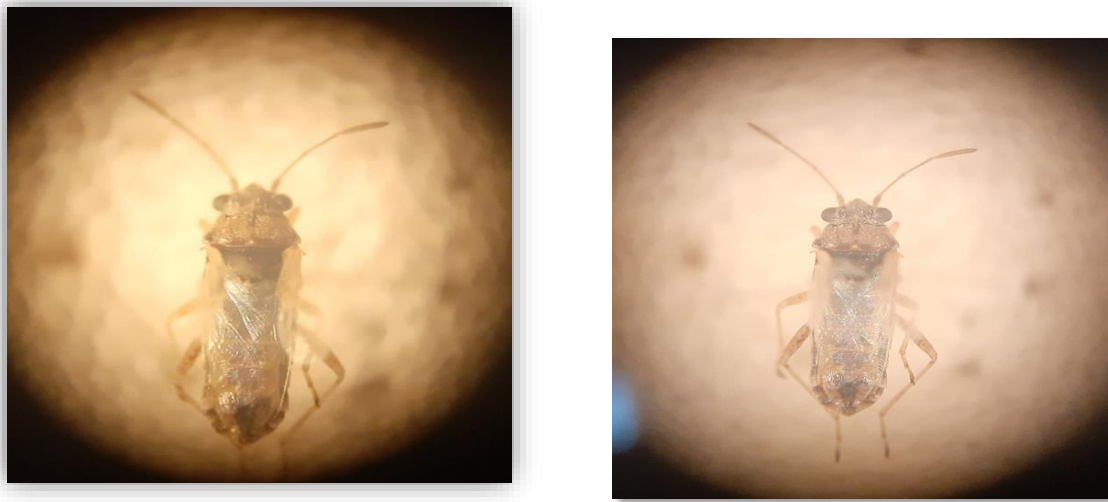
Pearl millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.)] is popularly known as “Bajra” and belongs to the family of Poaceae. *Bajra* is a coarse grain crop and considered to be the poor man’s staple nourishment.

A study was conducted to identify the new occasional pests infesting pearl millet in Gujarat, India. During the field visit in May 2020, pearl millet crop in experimental plots of entomology farm, B. A. College of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, was found infested with new occasional pests (Fig. 2). Adults were collected and brought to the laboratory of Entomology for identification and further study. In India, Distant (1903) described false chinch bug (FCB), *Nysius inconspicuus* (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) from Bor Ghat and later reported the same from Mysore. A severe infestation of sesame by *N. inconspicuus* Distant was reported from Tindivanam in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu (Thangavelu *et al.*, 1989). In Gujarat, *Nysius ericae* (Schilling) (Lygaeidae), a hemipteran pest was found feeding on

muskmelon for the first time (Zala *et al.*, 2013).

The findings of morphological studies and by dissection endorse the species as *Nysius inconspicuus* (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) and this is the first confirmed report of occasional pest in pearl millet fields of Gujarat State, India. It is a highly polyphagous and occasional pest. It has smaller size, greyish brown coloration and transparent wings (Fig. 1a, b). The species of the genus *Nysius* are uni- or bivoltine, but some have been found to complete three generations in a year. Although, the pest is recorded on pearl millet crop, it may feed on other crops *viz.*, sorghum, wheat, cotton, vegetables etc. so it may be an emerging threat to other agricultural crops also.

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**Fig. 1. (A, B) Adult of *Nysius inconspicuus***



**Fig. 2: (A) *Nysius inconspicuus* Distant (Lygaeidae) infesting pearl millet ear head (B) Mating adults on ear head of pearl millet appeared**

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