

***Helopeltis theivora* finds a new host, *Anthurium* sp. - an observation**

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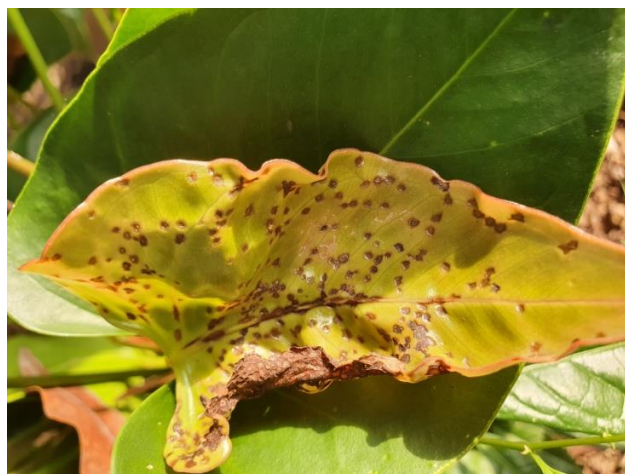
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Helopeltis theivora Waterhouse is commonly known as tea mosquito bug, belonging to Miridae family of Hemiptera. It is a serious pest in tea plantations. It is highly polyphagous in nature and its host range is very vast. Several annual and perennial crops of different families are infested by this notorious pest, among economic plants include tea, cashew, acacia, cocoa, camphor, pepper etc to which it causes considerable damage and yield loss. The nymphs and adults of this pest suck cell sap from tender stems, young leaves, buds, flowers and flower buds, fruits which results in the formation of brown or black lesions resulting in necrosis and drying of infested plant parts. When the major hosts are scarce, this pest also feeds on several non-crop hosts especially weed species. Thus, it breeds throughout the year and survives in adverse seasons until the major host is available (Mukhopadhyay and Roy, 2009). Reports on its increasing host range are added often (Vanitha *et al.*, 2014, Roy *et al.*, 2015,

Srikumar *et al.*, 2016, Sivakumar and Yeswanth, 2019).

During October 2021, in Puttur region of Karnataka, infestation of *H. theivora* was noted for the first time on *Anthurium* sp, (Family: Araceae) an ornamental plant which is one of the important economic flowers of export potential. It is to note that these potted anthurium plants had proximity to the cashew plantations. Brownish necrotic spots were seen on its leaves as well as spadix. Eggs, nymphs and adults of *H. theivora* were found in the infested plants. In the study region besides cashew, *Chromolaena odorata*, a common weed is also found abundant including few other hosts of *H. theivora*. Our literature survey shows that this is the new report of *H. theivora* on *Anthurium* sp. The study emphasizes on regular monitoring of *H. theivora* incidence on the non-crop plants especially during non-cropping season to understand its host range and possibility of further spread to crop plants.

Infested spadix with *H. theivora* nymph

Infested Anthurium leaf

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