

## INSECT LENS



***Dune cricket, Schizodactylidae***

*It is usually found in desert and sandy areas. Species are predatory, including Schizodactylus inexpectatus. T. B. Fletcher notes that one captive individual did not feed on any vegetable matter. Fossils are known since the early Cretaceous.*

***Author:*** Dr N Mukesh

***Location:*** In sandy soil, Dunes of Fatehpur, District - Sikar, Rajasthan



***Spiny leaf beetle, Dicladispa sp. (Chrysomelidae: Coleoptera)***

*The larvae tunnel inside leaves between the upper and lower surface. A hyaline window appears where the intervening leaf tissue has been removed.*

***Author:*** Dr. Sevgan Subramanian

***Location:*** International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya

***Email:*** ssubramania@icipe.org





***Miniature incubators with marvelous architecture (Egg mass of stink bug (Pentatomidae: Hemiptera))***

*The eggs were photo documented in the month of September 2022 on the bark of Neem tree (Azadirachta indica) at the height of 1.21 m from the ground and the girth (stem diameter) at this height was 0.55 m.*

***Author:*** Mr. Rushikesh Rajendra Sankpal

***Place:*** Warud Chakrapan- Kawatha Bk, Dist- Hingoli, Maharashtra (19°48'50.5"N 76°50'25.8"E)

***Email:*** rushisankpal@gmail.com



**Wood spider, *Hersilia* sp. (Hersiliidae: Araneae)**

*Lives almost exclusively on tree trunks or stone walls and immobilizes the prey by spreading silk, while jumping over and running around it.*

**Author:** Anil V Kohle

**Location:** Agriculture Research Station, Amgaon, Dist. Gondia Maharashtra





***Emigrant butterfly, Catopsilia pyranthe (Pieridae: Lepidoptera)***

*As name implies, it is strongly migratory in behaviour and found in many habitats including Acacia scrub, dry open woodlands, beach hinterlands, gardens and wasteland. Both sexes commonly visit flowers of Lantana and Catunaregam.*

***Author:*** Dr N Talari

***Location:*** Cassia sp. at Vadlamudi, Guntur



***Small carpenter bee, Ceratina sp. (Apidae: Hymenoptera)***

*These bees make nests in dead wood, stems or pith. One species is unique for having both social and asocial populations, Ceratina australensis, which exhibits all of the pre-adaptations for successful group living. This species is socially polymorphic with both solitary and social nests collected in sympatry. They are very commonly mistaken for "sweat bees" (family Halictidae).*

***Author:*** Dr. Nagaraj, D. N., Project Head (Entomologist) Ento. Proteins Pvt. Ltd., Mangalore

***Location:*** Bangalore

***Email:*** nasoteya@yahoo.co.in



***Greater Banded Hornet, Vespa tropica (Vespidae: Hymenoptera)***

*It is a predator of paper wasps and possesses a potent sting, which can cause extreme pain and swelling. Vespa tropica are raiders of the nests of other wasp species and take captured larvae back to their own nest to feed their larvae. They have been observed to catch honeybees quite frequently, and even dragonflies have been noted as prey.*

***Author:*** Dr. Abraham Verghese

***Location:*** Bengaluru.

***Email:*** [abraham.avergis@gmail.com](mailto:abraham.avergis@gmail.com)





***Syrphid, Paragus serratus preying on Aphis spiraecola on Ixora shrubs (A tritrophic interaction of Pest, Predator and Plant)***

*Ixora shrubs dotting urban landscapes with flaming clusters of tubular flowers, in red orange yellow etc., are a gardener's delight. But these get infested with aphids (plant lice), especially in winter. The Rashvee-International Phytosanitary Research and Services team found Aphis spiraecola and A. gossypi on young leaves of Ixora in the urban gardens of Bangalore. As these plants are least sprayed, there were syrphid, Paragus serratus and coccinellid predators preying on the unwary aphids, which occurred in small colonies.*

**Author:** Dr Rashmi M. A.

**Place:** Bengaluru

**Email:** rashmigowda.ento@gmail.com





***Asian weaver ant, Oecophylla smaragdina (Formicidae: Hymenoptera)***

*These are arboreal in nature and found in tropical Asia and Australia. These form colonies with multiple nests in trees, each nest being made of leaves stitched together using the silk produced by the ant larvae. Hence, the name 'oecophylla' [=leaf-house(in Greek)].*

***Author: Dr Rashmi M. A.,***

***Place: Bengaluru***

***Email: rashmigowda.ento@gmail.com***



***Fistulococcus pokfulamensis* (Coccidae: Hemiptera) on mango leaf**

*Fistulococcus pokfulamensis* was reported for the first time from India (Karnataka) in 2022 by Dr Sunil Joshi (ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru). *Fistulococcus pokfulamensis* was known previously only from Hong Kong, infesting a gymnosperm. In India, it has been recorded on *Syzigiumcumini*, *Vaccinium corymbosum* and mango. The spread of the scale on mango pan India was also forewarned by Joshi et al., 2022.

**Author:** Dr Rashmi M. A.,

**Place:** Bengaluru

**Email:** [internationalphytosanitaryrs@gmail.com](mailto:internationalphytosanitaryrs@gmail.com)





***Lablab bug, Coptosoma cribraria (Plataspidae: Hemiptera)***

*It is a piercing-sucking insect, nymphs and adults feed on tender stems, petioles and leaves. Heavy populations can result in some defoliation and development of sooty mold. In addition, this bug emits an unpleasant smell when disturbed and produces a yellow substance when crushed that can stain cloth, wood and other surfaces. Also, in some cases reported to cause painful skin irritation.*

***Author:*** Prathika R

***Location:*** Bengaluru

***Email:*** prathiprathika08@gmail.com



***Egg parasitism of hover fly on Aphids, *Macrosiphum* sp. (Plant-pest-parasitoid: A tritrophic interaction)***

*Trichome-mediated plant defences are implicated in both the second and the third trophic level. First, trichomes can provide major resistance against a number of herbivorous arthropods like aphids, but can also interact directly or indirectly with their natural enemies. Here, both adults and larvae of hoverflies have been reported to be more abundant and better suited to exploiting aphids on smooth, flat surfaces.*

**Author:** Chinnu V S., Ph.D. scholar, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru

**Location:** Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra, Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Email:** chinnuvikramannair@gmail.com





***Fall armyworm, Spodoptera frugiperda (Noctuidae: Lepidoptera)***

*Fall armyworm (FAW) is native to tropical and subtropical America. Its presence in India was first reported in May 2018.*

***Author:*** Dr. Nagaraj, D. N Project Head (Entomologist,) Ento. Proteins Pvt. Ltd., Mangalore

***Location:*** Bangalore

***Email:*** nasoteya@yahoo.coi.in



**Weaver ant, *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Formicidae: Hymenoptera)**

Weaver ants are highly territorial and aggressively defend their territories against intruders. Though, they prey on insects harmful to their host trees, weaver ants are sometime used by indigenous farmers, particularly in Southeast Asia, as natural biocontrol agents against agricultural pests. Although weaver ants lack a functional sting they can inflict painful bites and often spray formic acid directly at the bite wound resulting in intense discomfort.

**Author:** Dr. Nagaraj, D. N., Project Head (Entomologist), Ento. Proteins Pvt. Ltd., Mangalore

**Location:** Bangalore

**Email:** [nasoteya@yahoo.coi.in](mailto:nasoteya@yahoo.coi.in)



**(c) Subramanian Sevgan**



***Eggs of cone-nose bugs or Assassin bugs - (Harpactorinae: Reduviidae: Hemiptera)***

***Can there be a better design for Soya sauce bottles than this? !!***

***Author: Dr. Sevgan Subramanian***

***Location: International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya  
(December 2023)***

***Email: ssubramania@icipe.org***



***Melon Fly, Zeugodacus cucurbitae (Diptera, Tephritidae)***

*Melon Fly feed on the juices of decaying fruit, nectar, bird feces, and plant sap. Mature melon fly males are attracted to several attractants like anisyl acetone, cue-lure, raspberry ketone and zingerone. Also, they are pollinators of orchids, Bulbophyllum (Orchidaceae) species, that release floral fragrance containing either raspberry ketone or zingerone as floral attractant and reward.*

***Author:*** Dr. Sevgan Subramanian

***Location:*** International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya  
(December, 23)

***Email:*** ssubramania@icipe.org





***Pericyma sp of Moth (Erebidae : Lepidoptera)***

*The Genus is found to be widespread in the old world tropics. Regions in Africa and India show the greatest diversity. Some of the Indian species of adults are also considered to be piercing fruits.*

***Author:*** Ruchita Naidu D, Teaching Assistant, Department of Zoology, St. Joseph's University, Bangalore, India.

***Location:*** R.T. Nagar, Bangalore, India.

***Email:*** [naiduruchita2000@gmail.com](mailto:naiduruchita2000@gmail.com)