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Inflorescence looper *Perixera illepidaria* (Guenee) Lepidoptera: Geometridae on mango**Malini Nilamudeen*, Sumiya K V, Karthikeyan K, Syed Mohammed Ibrahim**

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Mango orchards which came to bloom in the first fortnight of November 2022 in Kollengode block of Palakkad district (10° 37' 0" N, 76° 42' 0" E.) recorded serious infestation of *Perixera illepidaria*. The looper caterpillars were found feeding voraciously on mango flowers. More than twenty larvae were collected from a single inflorescence on slight shaking. The damaged inflorescence presented a dried appearance and flowers became brittle. In India, the pest has been reported for the first time from Bihar from *Litchi chinensis* by Kumar *et al.*, 2014. Nayanthara and Narayanan, 2020 recorded *P. illepidaria* as an inflorescence looper from mango orchards of Kolengode, Kerala. Soumya *et al.*, 2021 stated that *P. illepidaria* can be a major threat to commercial cultivars of mango in the southern India. They reported it from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and observed that population was high during the peak flowering season of mango (January–March) and found it feeding on mango inflorescence with set fruits, resulting in yield loss. Poorani and Mohanasundaram, 2022 reported the migration of the looper caterpillars to banana for pupation. In Muthalamada panchayat of Palakkad district, the mango starts blooming from September

and bear fruits by January and the infestation by *P. illepidaria* is severe during this year also. Ecofriendly management protocol is to be developed for the management of this pest as their population is flaring up in every subsequent flowering season.

References

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Fig 1: *Perixera illepidaria*-larva and pupa



Fig 2: *Perixera illepidaria* Adult

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