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**First record of black thrips *Thrips parvispinus* (Karny) Thysanoptera: Terebrantia:
Thripidae, from Muthalamada, the mango city of Kerala**

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Palakkad district is the mango hub of Kerala with an area of 10068 ha and production of 55120 MT (Ecostatkerala, 2020). In Muthalamada panchayat of Palakkad district (10°35'57.3"N, 76°13'01.4"E), mango starts blooming from September and bear fruits by January. This early bearing characteristics give a great share of domestic and export market. However, in recent years untimely rain due to climate variability which affected early bearing character and high incidence of mango thrips on inflorescence posed serious threat to the mango growers.

Twenty mango orchards in Muthalamada panchayat of Palakkad district were randomly selected. A sample of twenty-five mango trees were selected from each orchard and the thrips population from five randomly selected trees in four directions from each orchard was counted. The specimens were collected by CO₂ method (The panicle was gently covered with a plastic bag, and the thrips enclosed within the plastic bag were immobilized with CO₂ released at a gentle flow into the bag for 30 sand immediately tied with

a thread. The plastic bags were marked with the date and tree number and transported to the laboratory for further analysis) (Aliakbarpour and Che Salmah, 2010) and were preserved in 70% alcohol and got identified as *Thrips parvispinus*, *Thrips palmi* and *Haplothrips* sp. by expert taxonomist from NBAIR (ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resource). All these species are being reported for the first time on mango from Kerala.

T. parvispinus, a devastating pest on several agricultural and horticultural crops, is one of the pest species of South East Asia which comes under a member of "*Thrips orientalis* group" (Mound, 2005). The presence of this thrips complex on highly remunerative crop like mango is to be dealt with serious concern as it can create panic among farmers which force them to resort to unscientific application on chemical insecticides. An in-depth study covering the bio-ecology of these pests is the need of the hour to evolve sustainable and eco-friendly management practices for its management.



Fig. 1: Adult *T. parvispinus*



Fig. 2: Adult *Haplothrips* sp.



Fig. 3: Symptoms on panicle



Fig. 4: Symptoms on fruits

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