SHORT COMMUNICATION

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NEW RECORDS OF ZOOCECIDIA FROM ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA

This contribution records six Zoocecidia collected on six different plant species during the survey of gall causing insects of the Andaman Islands. Among these cecidozoa, two belong to Homoptera, one to Lepidoptera two to Diptera and, one unknown insect, which are being recorded for the first time from the Andaman Islands. These galls are deposited in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Port Blair.

1. *Ficus nervosa* Roth. by *Dynopsylla grandis* Mathur (Homoptera)

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, A). Epiphyllous, simple, globose, rarely ovoid, sessile, solitary or agglomerate, smooth, fleshy, unilocular pouchgall, enclosing a single nymph inside, not localized, dehiscent, pale yellowish-green to reddish or reddish-brown when young, becomes dark brown on aging. Ostiole hypophyllous. Galls burst open from above at emergence of an adult and give the peculiar peteloid appearence. Nymphal exuviae were noticed in fully developed galls indicating their moulting into adults in gall cavity itself. Number of galls per leaf varies from 9-50. Size : 4-7 mm. high and 7-9 mm. in diameter. Coll. *R. M. Sharma*, 26.xi,1981 ; 20.i.1982, 25.vi.1982, and 26.ix.1982.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Carbyn's Cove, Wandoor, Rutland Island (very common), Neil Island.

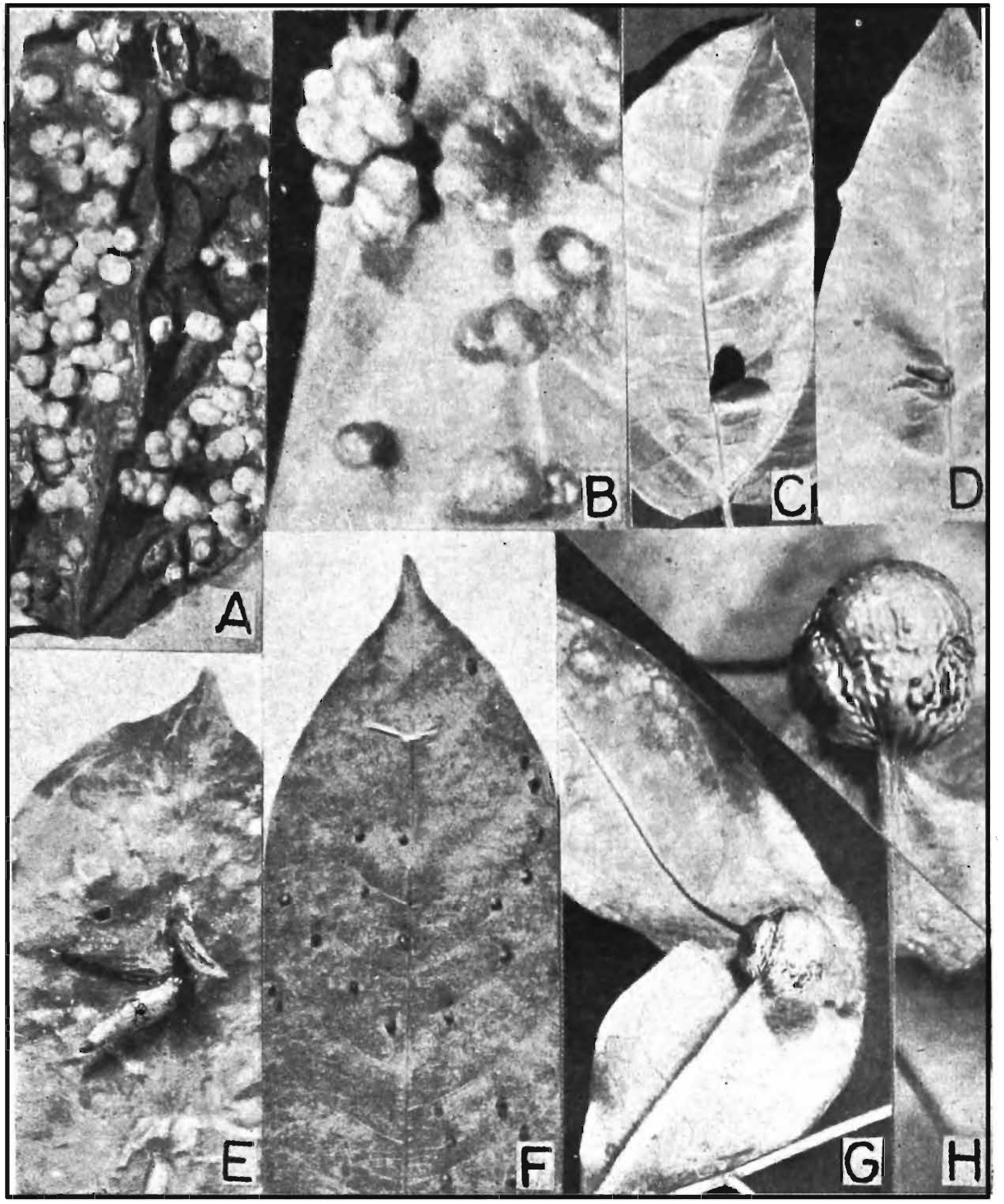
2. *Ficus recemosa* Linn. by *Pauropsylla depressa* crawf (Homoptera)

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, B). Epiphyllous, simple, sub-globose, sessile, perfoliate pouch-gall, usually aggregated on the leaf resulting in multilocular aglomerate-masses, yellowish green when young, dark-brown when old, dehiscent, letting out an adult from openings on the underside. Number of galls varies from 5-25 per leaf. Size : 2-7 mm. in diameter. Coll. *R. M. Sharma*, 10.x.1981 and 17.iv.1982.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Junglighat, Port Blair, Caddle gunj, Manpur.

3. *Thunbergia laurifolia* Lindl. by an unidentified Lepidoptera.

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, C, D). Epiphyllous or hypophyllous, free, solitary or paired but never agglomerate, fusiform, stout, thick-walled, fleshy, solid, glabrous pouch gall, inserted on the blade by a short and stout stalk, usually occur on the mid rib or on one of the larger lateral veins, greenish when young, becomes light to dark-brown when old, indehiscent, persistent. Gall cavity axial, elongate, wide, cylindrical and extending from nearly the very base of the gall to its tip, unilocular enclosing a single caterpillar, pupates in the gall itself, pupal period 6-7 days and mature by lacerated openings on the lateral side from which an adult emerges out. Larvae parasitized by hymenopterous parasites. Size of the gall varies from 25-28 mm. long and 5-8 mm. thick medially. Number of galls per leaf ranges from 2-4. Coll. *R. M. Sharma*, 26.xi.1981, 26.v.1982, and 20.vi.1982., Feb./March, 1983.



Leaf galls on : A. *Ficus nervosa* ; B. *Ficus recemosa* ; C. *Thunbergia laurifolia* (Upper surface) ; D. same (Under surface) ; E. *Gnetum acutum* ; F. *Dehaasia kurzii* ; G. *Phaeanthus andamanicus* ; H. Same enlarged view.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Carbyn's Cove, Chidiatapu, Dandus Point, Namunaghar, Rutland Island. MIDDLE ANDNAMAN : Very common throughout the Island.

4. *Gnetum acutum* Markgr, by unknown Diptera

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, E). Epiphyllous, free, solitary or at times two galls unite at the base but never agglomerate, fusiform, pedicellate, operculate, stout, thick-walled, fleshy, solid, glabrous, indehiscent, persistent, pouch-gall, inserted on the mid rib or one of the larger lateral veins, greenish when young, blackish and woody on aging. Gall cavity unilocular, axial, elongate, wide, cylindrical and extending from nearly the very base of the gall to its tip, exit hole at its apical tip. Size of the gall varies from 22-25 mm. long and 4-5 mm. thick at centre. Number of galls per leaf varies from 2-5. Coll. *M. K. Vasudeva Rao*, 23.i.1982.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Rutland Island.

5. *Dehaasia kurzii* King by unknown insect.

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, F). Epiphyllous, very rarely hypophyllous, pustuloid or conoid, sessile, solitary or at times two or three galls unite at base but never agglomerate, unilocular, fleshy, glabrous pouch-gall, occur throughout the laminar surface, indehiscent, persistent, greenish when young, black and woody when old. Larval cavity small ; minute, circular exit hole present at the tip of the gall. Size : 2-3 mm. high and 1-2 mm. in diameter. Often as many as 250 galls arise on a single leaf. Coll. *R. M. Sharma*, 10.vi.1981 and 25.vii.1982.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Dhanikhari, Wandoor.

6. *Phaeanthus andamanicus* King by unknown Diptera

Leaf gall (Pl. XVIII, G, H). Hypophyllous, simple, sessile, solitary, occur mostly on mid rib, globose with rough surface, solid, hard, pouch-gall, greenish when young, blackish on aging ; indehiscent, persistent. Gall cavity unilocular usually there are 3-4 circular exit holes in a mature gall. Size : 10-15 mm. in diameter. Mostly a single gall arise on a leaf. Coll. *R. M. Sharma*, 17.iv.1982.

Distribution : SOUTH ANDAMAN : Chidiatapu.

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A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF SEA TURTLE OF THE ANDHRA COAST

VISAKHAPATNAM SEA COAST

Investigation about the sea turtle was carried out at the Lawson Bay, Waltair, one of the most important fish landing centre in Andhra Pradesh.

Though *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eschscholtz, commonly known as Olive Ridley, is the predominant species of the waltair coast. There are instances of other three species of sea turtle being caught in the sea of Visakhapatnam or coming for nesting occasionally on the shore. These species are *Chelonia mydas agassizii* Bolourt, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linn.) and *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linn.)

The coastal sea bed between Lawson Bay and Bimilipatnam is a very good pasture ground of Green Turtle, its bed being rocky sea algae or the turtle grass grow well. This sea algae is favorite food of green turtle. Ocassionally Green turtle is caught in the nets of fishermen at Waltair coast though they seldom nest on the beach. This species is mainly insular in distibution. Such a male Green turtle was caught in December 1978. This specimen is being maintained at the waltair Zoogarden in a cemented tank on the fresh algae food more than a year. One juvenile Hawkbill, *Eretmochelys imbricata* (carapace, 20.5 cm×15 cm., Plastron, 15.8× 13.5 cm.) was collected from fishermen at the Lawson Bay. The specimen was caught in the net of a fishermen in the middle of November and it was kept alive more than two months in a small enclosure of stones on the beach fed with small fishes. It was informed that one Hawkbill laid on this beach a clutch of hundred eggs on 1978.

The main turtle fishing season only of Olive Ridley in this area is November and December. In the peak period minimum 100 turtles are caught per day depending on number of boats operating during this period. Turtle fishing ends usually in 3rd week of January. Due to Government ban turtles are not at present booked by train to the Calcutta but by truck. Reliable information is that businessmen from Dumduma, a place in Koraput district of Orissa come to the Bay to purchase turtle.

Ir is known from a report of CMFRI (1979) that 23,282 kgs., was the estimated annual catch in that year from this area. No estimate of previous years are available.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER AREAS OF THE ANDHRA COAST

Information from Masulipatnam area shows that though turtles lay egg on sea shore between Peddopatanam & Samaldevi neithre turtle fishing nor marketing is being carried out in this area. The reason is most of the fishermen of this area belong to "Agni Kula Kasthrya", a sect of Hindu religion who revered turtle as the representative of god.

Turtle also nest on beach from the Srikakulam area of Andhra Pradesh upto Gopalpur on sea of Orissa coast.