ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Professor Y.P.S. Pangtey and Dr. B.S. Kalakoti, Department of Botany, Th. D.S.B. College, Nainital, who kindly identified some of the plants, and Dr. Poonam Mehrotra of the Department of Ecology of the same institution for her kind help with the bibliography.

REFERENCES


23. ON THE PREDATION OF THE GIANT REDEYE GANGARA THYRISIS (FAMILY: HESPERIIDAE; ORDER: LEPIDOPTERA)

The Giant Redeye Gangara thyrisis Family Hesperiidae is not an uncommon butterfly in Bangalore. It is often seen in gardens around its food plants — Areca lutens, Cocos nucifera and other palms.

Observations on the predators of the Giant Redeye were made on nine Areca lutens plants ranging in height from 1-4 m, and frequented by these insects. It was observed that the bonnet macaque (Macaca radiata) and the house crow (Corvus splendens) fed on the larvae and pupae of the Giant Redeye.

One individual of a troop of bonnet macaques which visited the premises where observations were made, systematically searched all the palms for larvae and pupae. The macaque searched the leaves rolled up by the larvae, opened them, and ate the larvae (which have long, loosely attached, white thread-like outgrowths amidst which are red spots).

Similarly, the macaque opened the tubes made of palm fronds which conceal the pupae and ate the pupae.

A house crow which visited the premises seemed to have noticed a pupa of the Giant Redeye. It gave up its efforts to procure the pupa as it was unable to balance itself on the slender palm fronds. A good half hour had elapsed before the bird returned and perched on the neighbouring Colocasia sp.(?) growing amidst the palms. From the new perch, it successfully ripped open the tube and swallowed the pupa whole.

These are probably new records of predators of the Giant Redeye.

24. MATING BEHAVIOUR OF THE COMMON MORMON PAPILIO POLYTES (FAMILY: PAPILIONIDAE)

During February 1998, I was studying the metamorphosis of different species of Papilionidae and Nymphalidae in my home laboratory. The Common Mormon (Papilio polytes) was one of the species reared successfully. After a pupal period of ten days, a female Common Mormon emerged from its chrysalis at about 0900 hrs. The Common
Mormon is known to exhibit polymorphism, having three female forms. So I observed it carefully and found that it belonged to the stichius form which resembles the Common Rose (Pachliopta aristolochiae). After spreading its shrunken and wet wings, I shifted the butterfly to dry its wings on to a lemon tree from which the caterpillar was collected. I kept watching continuously for about 30 minutes and took some photographs. During this time I noticed a male Common Mormon flying around the lemon tree. I took detailed notes and left the site.

I visited the site again after 20 minutes and was astonished to find the newly emerged butterfly mating with the mature male Mormon. It was very interesting that the female Mormon had not even changed its position from where I had placed it initially. The marginal wing scales of the male Mormon were somewhat damaged and wing edges ruptured, indicating the extremity of its lifespan.

The male and female were in the clasped posture for another 90 minutes, with both their wings spread. The male was inverted, suspended from the copulatory organ of the female. The hind wing of the female remained on the upper side, overlapping the male’s wing. A white droplet of spermatozoa was observed on the wing base of the male Mormon, perhaps splashed during the ejaculation. It was most surprising that the female became involved in mating immediately upon emergence, even prior to its first flight.

Acknowledgements

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25. MYCOPHAGOUS ARTHROPODS FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The native fungi and their associated arthropods are both very poorly known from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. To study the nature of fungal-arthropod interactions we have been documenting the arthropod fauna of the fungi of these islands. The arthropods so far collected on fungi from the Islands are represented by Coleoptera (including mycophagous staphy-linids and tenebrionids) and a couple of Acarina. The oyster mushroom Pleurotus sajor-caju is attacked by Scaphisoma sp. (Coleoptera) in the cropping chamber, when this mushroom is cultured indoors.

List of Mycophagous arthropods from the Andaman Islands are as follows:

Insecta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coleoptera</td>
<td>Ciiidae</td>
<td>Cis spp.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erotyliidae</td>
<td>Spondotriplax andamana Arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaphidiidae</td>
<td>Scaphisoma sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staphylinidae</td>
<td>Gyrophaena sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tenebrionidae</td>
<td>Cryphaeus sp. (Toxicinae)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Acarina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mesostigmata</td>
<td>Uropodidae</td>
<td>Cylilbula?bordagei (Oudemans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oribatada</td>
<td>(=Cryptostigmata)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parakalummidae Genus et sp. indet.

*Four species, presently not identified, were recorded.