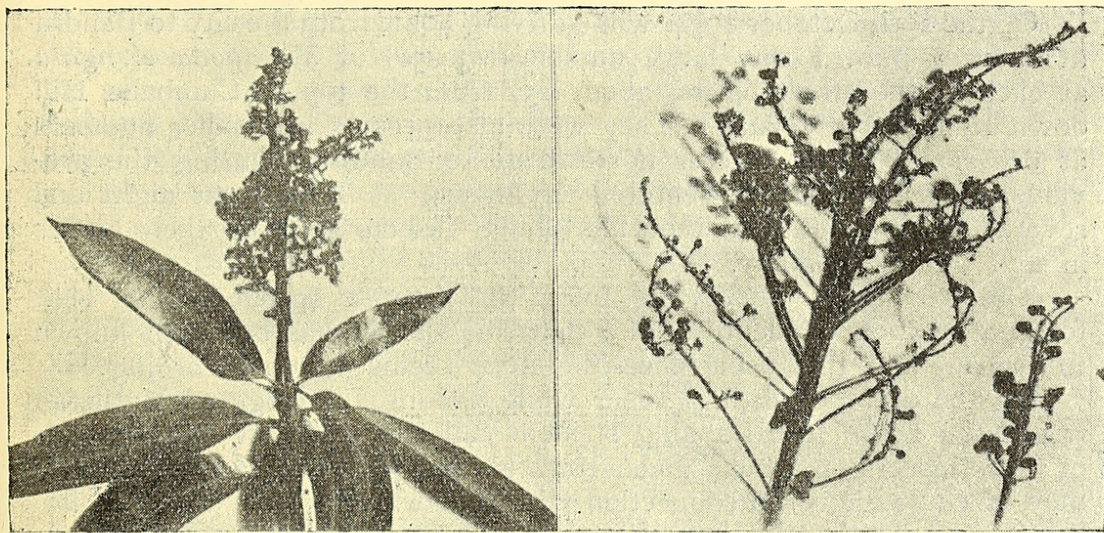


22. INCIDENCE OF MANGO FLOWER GALLS IN BOMBAY KARNATAK

(With a photo)

A number of gall-forming insects have been recorded previously on *Mangifera indica* Linn. in various parts of the world. However, very few of them have been observed as serious pests. In Bombay State, with the exception of the Cecidomyiid flies—*Allasomyia tenuispatha*—noted by the author as a serious pest of mango, practically no information exists about the fauna of other gall-forming insects of serious importance. During January and February 1954, at Dharwar, in Bombay Karnatak another gall fly *Dasyneura mangiferae* Felt. was noted for the first time, infesting the mango flower buds to an extent of 80 to 90% in a single inflorescence. The infested flower bud instead of developing in a normal way, presented a characteristic gall-like swelling. The dimensions of such galls varied from 0.3×0.4 mm. to 0.32×0.45 mm. As the size of the galls increased, the larvae contained within them reached maturity. Pupation was noticed within the gall in white silken cocoons. The adult flies finally emerged through an apical opening from the gall.



EARLY STAGE

LATE STAGE

Infestation by *Dasyneura mangifera*

Life-history—The insects oviposited in the individual unopened flowers just after their emergence. On the 4th day only the healthy flowers opened, whereas the infested ones swelled into small peanut-sized galls. On opening the individual galls, in each of them one to four cream yellow coloured larvae were noticed. Each full-grown larva was spindle-shaped and measured on an average 0.20 mm. to 0.25 mm. The average of 36 rearings conducted from egg to adult in the laboratory indicated that larval period ranged between 6 to 9 days. The well-developed pupa showed yellowish brown to dark brown coloration prior to hatching. The pupae invariably developed within white papery silken cocoons. The adult insects emerged after a period

of two to three days in the laboratory rearings. The newly-emerged adults measured on an average 0.40 mm. in length and 0.50 mm. across wings; with 15 segmented antennae and 4 segmented tarsae. The duration of the life cycle of the insect in the laboratory was found to range from 8 to 11 days.



Kulkarny, H L. 1955. "Incidence of Mango Flower Galls in Bombay Karnatak." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 53, 147–148.

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