

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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25. ON AGGRESSIVENESS IN THE MALES OF BROWN CRICKET, *GRYLLODES SIGILLATUS* WALKER (ORTHOPTERA: GRYLLIDAE)

Alexander (1961)¹ described aggressiveness as a sequel of sexual behaviour in field crickets. While working on the sexual behaviour of the common brown cricket, *Grylloides sigillatus*, we were able to record the following observations.

When females are scarce, males become aggressive in order to secure the females and fighting males back up, and lash and kick each other with their hind legs. The fight generally lasts about 10 minutes. Meanwhile the female remains hidden. If the fight is prolonged both become more fierce and aggressive, and after about 15 minutes become exhausted. The fight is interrupted occasionally with intervals lasting about five seconds.

As soon as one of the males becomes in-

active, the other takes the opportunity of nibbling or even chopping off the antennae of the rival cricket and subduing it. At times, the femur may be chewed and with this deformity the already mutilated male runs and is chased by the winner.

During such a fight over a female, the males invariably stridulate and grapple each other. Subsequently the winning male mates.

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¹ALEXANDER, R. D. (1961): Aggressiveness, territoriality and sexual behaviour in field crickets (Orthoptera: Gryllidae). *Behaviour*. 17:130-223.



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