

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
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PAOTA 'B' ROAD,  
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29. INCIDENCE OF MASS ATTRACTION OF *CYDNUS INDICUS*  
WESTW. (HETEROPTERA — PENTATOMIDAE) TO LIGHT

*Cydnus indicus* Westw., the common black "geranium bug" has been found living in soil in large numbers. I observed in 1980 a good number of insects attracted to light including *Cydnus indicus* in this locality. In 1981 during the months of July and August an unusual phenomenon of mass attraction of this black bug was observed while making further studies on the phototropic responses in insects. On 29th July there was heavy rainfall at Saharanpur (45.0 mm.) and at 9.00 p.m. when rain had stopped, forty bugs were found around light source (60 Watt Bulb) and on the ground below. The same phenomenon was observed on 2nd, 15th and 22nd August. In another locality on the 27th August at 8.00 p.m. these bugs were watched emerging from soil and taking flight towards light source (fluorescent tube) situated at a distance of four metres. After taking a short flight around light, most of them fell down on the ground.

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Their number was counted and recorded as 43. Meanwhile, a toad *Bufo melanostictus* suddenly appeared and started feeding on the insects. Within half an hour it had consumed 35 bugs, but the rest were beyond its reach on the wall of the house.

On 29th July, we presume that the flooding of the soil compelled the bugs to emerge out from their hide outs and then to fly towards light. But, on 2nd, 15th, 22nd and 27th August, there was no rain at Saharanpur. So, it can be concluded that it is a normal habit to be attracted to any light source in the vicinity during the rainy months, i.e., from July to September, in this region.

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S. C. DHIMAN

30. A NOTE ON THE OVIPOSITION OF *SPHAERODEMA*  
*RUSTICUM* (FABR.) (HEMIPTERA)

*Sphaerodema rusticum* is an aquatic bug and is commonly available in ponds at Dhar. These were collected and reared in aquaria.

Breeding took place between February to mid November. It is an interesting example of parental care by the male.



In mating the male mounted on the back of the female and copulation lasted for an hour. Oviposition took place after 25 to 30 hrs of copulation. Female selected a male mounted upon it and laid an egg on the posterior extremity of the abdomen. The female then got down, again mounted on the same male and laid another egg just in the vicinity of the first. This procedure continued for about 4 to 6 hrs. in different cases. The female also excluded some adhering secretion which helped the eggs to adhere to the back of the male and a complete raft of eggs was formed. A female oviposited 60 to 70 eggs at a time. The male loaded with these eggs moved about till the

hatching took place. Generally the hatching took place in about 10 days. On 11th October 1980, in an aquarium two females selected a male and started laying eggs alternately upon it. The number of eggs laid was 132.

In fresh collections of the animals from ponds also many males were found with the raft of eggs on their back. In such collection also once we found 138 eggs on the back of a male. It was also definitely due to the oviposition by two females on one male, as a female lays only 60 to 70 eggs at a time.

The Male *Sphaerodema* is an excellent example of parental care in hemipteran insects.

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### 31. NEW RECORD OF *PAUROPSYLLA DEPRESSA* CRAWF. ON *FICUS LUCESCENS* BLUME

During an insect collection survey in district Saharanpur, galls of *Pauropsylla depressa* Crawford. (Homoptera) were observed in large numbers on *Ficus lucescens* (= *F. infectoria* Roxb.). This is a new record on this plant. Mathur (1975)<sup>1</sup> has described the psyllid, *Psausia indica* Mathur from *F. lucescens*. Observations made during 1979 and 1980, on the incidence of the insect on *F. lucescens* are reported here.

*Ficus lucescens* Blume. has been found heavily infected by these galls throughout the year except September-November. Nearly 90 per cent leaves bear galls. Leaf-fall on this *Ficus* plant occurs during mid September and continues up to mid October in this locality. During this period, the older leaves containing galls fall and new foliage appears by early November. Oviposition by *Pauropsylla depressa* then takes place. Young galls can be seen in late November. Only second, third and fourth instar nymphs were seen up to mid January, but in late January, fifth instar nymphs were

<sup>1</sup> MATHUR, R. N. (1975): Psyllidae of the Indian Subcontinent. *ICAR publn.*, New Delhi, pp. 429.





Vyas, Tej Prakash and Vyas, Madhu. 1982. "A NOTE ON THE OVIPOSITION OF SPHAERODEMA-RUSTICUM HEMIPTERA." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 79, 700–701.

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