

OCCURRENCE OF AN ABNORMAL MALE IN THE LAC INSECT, *KERRIA LACCA*
(KERR.)

During the course of breeding experiments on the lac insect *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.) (Syn. *Laccifer lacca* Kerr.), one male emerged from the male cells collected from the field which was completely devoid of the penial stylus. But for this abnormality, this insect conformed to a normal male in all morphological details and also retained its instinct to copulate with the females.

This gross morphological abnormality is the first record in lac insects. Its frequency, however, appears to be extremely low in nature since this has been the only specimen in hundreds of males handled by the author and presumably by others in the course of breeding experiments. It is, however, not known whether this abnormality is the result of physiological disturbances or is because of genetical factors.

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