

ON SOME HOSTS OF LAC INSECT, *KERRIA LACCA* (KERR)

By

P. SEN, R.C. MAURYA AND R.S. GOKULPURE

Indian Lac Research Institute, Namkum, Ranchi (Bihar)

The lac insect, *Kerria lacca* (Kerr) has been observed to thrive on the following lac host plant species in different crop seasons at Amjharia (Distt.-Palamau, Bihar, Namkum (Distt. Ranchi, Bihar) and Muri (Distt. Ranchi, Bihar)

Desmodium pulchellum Benth (Baryari).

Leguminosae.

This species carried both the strains of lac insect to maturity through artificial inoculations during *katki* 1975, *baisakhi* 1975-76, *katki* 1976, *baisakhi* 1976-77 of *rangeeni* strain and *jethwi* 1977 of *kusmi* strain at Amjharia.

Desmodium heterocarpum (L.) DC.

Leguminosae

This species carried *rangeeni* strain of lac insect to maturity during *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop season at Namkum plantation. It got inoculation from the adjoining *palas* [*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.] carrying lac.

Desmodium gangeticum DC.

Leguminosae

This species has been found carrying *kusmi* strain of lac insect during *jethwi* 1975 and 1977 crop seasons at Amjharia. The bushes carried inoculations from the adjoining *b'ialia* [*Moghania macrophylla* (Willd.) O. Ktze] bushes which is one of the major bushy lac hosts.

Grewia hirsuta Vahl (*Gursikri*)

Tiliaceae

This species has been found carrying *kusmi* strain of lac insect during *jethwi* 1977 crop seasons at Amjharia through artificial inoculation.

Hibiscus syriacus Linn. (*Hudhul*)

Malvaceae

This plant species has been found carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac insect during *katki* 1975, grown in private garden at Namkum. The plant got inoculation accidentally.

Millettia extensa Benth (Gorai)
(= *M. auriculata* Baker ex Brandis).

Leguminosae

This plant species has been observed carrying both the *rangeeni* and *kusmi* strains of lac insect at Amjharia.

Putranjiva roxburghii Wall. (Pitaujji)

Euphorbiaceae

This tree has been found at Muri Rly. Station carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac insect during *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop season through self-inoculation from the preceding *katki* 1975 crop.

The authors are thankful to Dr. T.P.S. Teotia, Director; Shri N.S. Chauhan, Scientist S 2, Indian Lac Research Institute, Namkum; Director Central National Herbarium, Calcutta for identifying the plant specimens and to Shri R.C. Singh, Field Technician, for his routine help.

Bombaxis heterocarpus (L.) DC.
Leguminosae

This species carried *kusmi* strain of lac insect to maturity during *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop season at Namkum plantation. It got inoculation from the adjoining *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop season (Lam. Tandi) carrying *kusmi* strain.

Bombaxis heterocarpus DC.
Leguminosae

This species has been found carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac insect during *baisakhi* 1975-76 and *katki* 1975 crop seasons at Amjharia. The species carried inoculation from the adjoining *katki* 1975 crop season (Lam. Tandi) which is one of the major hosts of lac insect.

Grewia bicolor Vahl (Guski)
Tiliaceae

This species has been found carrying *kusmi* strain of lac insect during *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop seasons at Amjharia through artificial inoculation.

Withania spicata Lam. (Kuski)
Malvaceae

This plant species has been found carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac insect during *katki* 1975 crop season in private garden at Namkum. The plant got inoculation incidentally.

Received for publication on 21.7.1978