

SACCOLEPIS INTERRUPTA, AN ALTERNATE HOST FOR THE RICE LEAF FOLDER, CNAPHALOCROCIS MEDINALIS GUEN. (Pyralidae: Lepidoptera).

The rice leaf folder, *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* Guen, is a major pest of rice in Kerala. The pest is endemic in Kuttanad tract where rice is cultivated during the summer (Puncha) season. A survey was undertaken in the Kuttanad region to locate alternate hosts if any, for the leaf folder.

During the course of the survey, leaf folder larvae were found feeding on *Saccolipsis interrupta* Staph., a long perennial grass common in marshes and in the edges of ponds and tanks. They roll the leaves longitudinally and feed from within. Leaves show typical damage symptoms as in the rice plant. Caterpillars reared on this grass feed on rice leaves and vice versa.

Recorded alternate hosts of the insect include grasses like, *Pennisetum pedicellatum*, *Dicanthium annulatum*, *Panicum* sp. (Gangav and Katiyar, 1971); crops like sugarcane (Candava and Calora, 1964), ragi and wild species of rice (Veluswamy et al, 1973).

As *S. interrupta* plants grow abundantly in marshy places and along irrigation channels in Kuttanad and harbour the pest throughout the year, it is quite likely that the leaf folder maintains its population on this weed during the off crop season.

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സംഗ്രഹം

നെൽക്കൃഷിയുടെ ഒരു മുഖ്യ ശത്രുകീടമായ ഓല ചുരുട്ടിപ്പുഴു, കൂട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളിലും ചാലുകളിലും ധാരാളമായി വളരുന്ന സാക്കോലെപ്പിസ് ഇൻററപ്റ്റാ എന്ന ചെടിയുടെ ഇലകളിൽ കാണപ്പെടുന്നു. വയലിൽ നെല്ലില്ലാത്ത സമയത്ത് ഈ കീടം മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ കളയിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് തുടർന്നുള്ള കൃഷിക്ക് ശല്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യതയുണ്ട്.

Rice Research Station,
Moncompu, Kerala

M. J. Thomas
Jim Thomas
C. Nandakumar

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