

ON *CONOCEPHALUS PALLIDUS* REDT.

## (Orthoptera : Tettigonidae) INJURING PADDY EARHEADS IN KERALA

Adult- and nymphs of *Conocephalus pallidus* Redt., were observed to damage the unemerged paddy panicles by biting and feeding on them in the Agricultural College Farm, Vellayani, in February 1967. The grasshopper made elongated cuts on the sheath enveloping the tender panicle and drew out through them the rachis and florets outwards. (Fig. 1). They also fed on the tender sweet florets. The insect was found to be active in the early morning hours.

The adult (Fig. 2) is a long-horned grasshopper about 55 mm long with green forewings and body. Other species of *Conocephalus* recorded as pests of rice include *C. nitidulus* Scop. noted as a foliage feeder in Africa (Morstatt 1913), *C. saltator* Sauss feeding on grains of hill rice in the Windward Island (Fennah 1948) and *C.*

*fasciatus* Deg. reported from Texas (Bowling 1962). This is the first time *C. pallidus* is observed as injuring rice.

The authors are grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for the identification of the grasshopper.

## References

- Bowling, G. C. 1962. Effect of insecticides on rice stink bug populations. *J. econ. Ent* 55 (5) : 648-651
- Fennah, R. G. 1943. Food crop pests investigation, Windward and Leeward Islands. First report-Report of work done during the period April 1942. Trinidad Imp. Coll. Trop. Agric.
- Morstatt, H. 1913. List of noxious insects in E. Africa *Der Pflanzler*, Daressalam 9 (6) : 288-296.

Agricultural College & Research  
Institute, Vellayani, Trivandrum.

C. C. Abraham  
M. J. Thomas

Accepted : 28-8-1968