

## **Monolepta khasiensis** WEISE AS A PEST OF ZINNIA

Adults of *Monolepta* spp. (**Chrysomelidae**: Coleoptera) are **phytophagous** insects. The species recorded so far in India as pests of crops are *Monolepta signata* on potato (Burt 1917), sugarcane (Fletcher 1919 and Pruthi 1936), **colocasia** and cotton (Ayyar 1940) and *M. erythrocephala* on walnut plum and apricot (Sharma and Bhalla 1961 and Chowdburi 1966).

Adults of a third species viz. *Monolepta khasiensis* were found for the first time to feed on the flowers of Zinnia in the Agricultural College **Farm**, Vellayani, Kerala, during September 1968. This beetle was found to feed on the petals of **the** plants, eating away the soft tissues of the upper surface leaving only the lower **epidermis**. As a result of this, the flowers lost their normal colour and the petals dried up. The beetles were found on the flowers in large numbers during early morning **hours** and in the evening.

The insect is about 5 mm long and 2.5 mm **broad**, bright brown in colour and with two black patches on each elytron, the apical patch being larger than the basal one.

Maulik (1936) recorded this insect as occurring in the hilly areas of Assam and Bombay.

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### References

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Agricultural College,  
Vellayani, Kerala State

M. J. THOMAS  
C. C. ABRAHAM

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**Gametocidal action of insecticides**

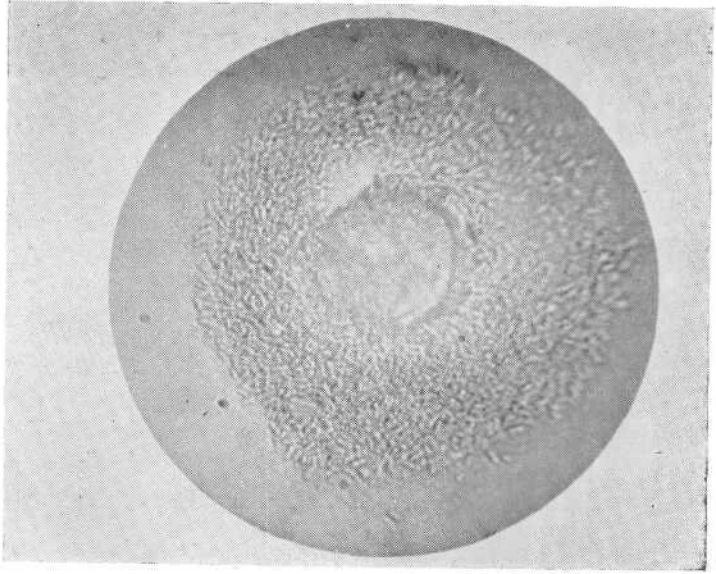


Fig. 3. Rice pollen treated with parathion

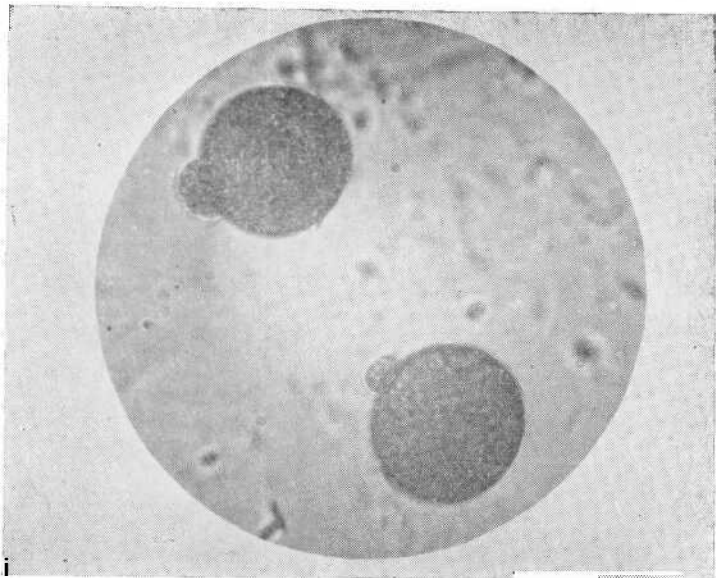


Fig. 4. Rice pollen treated with endrin

**Gametocidal action of insecticides**

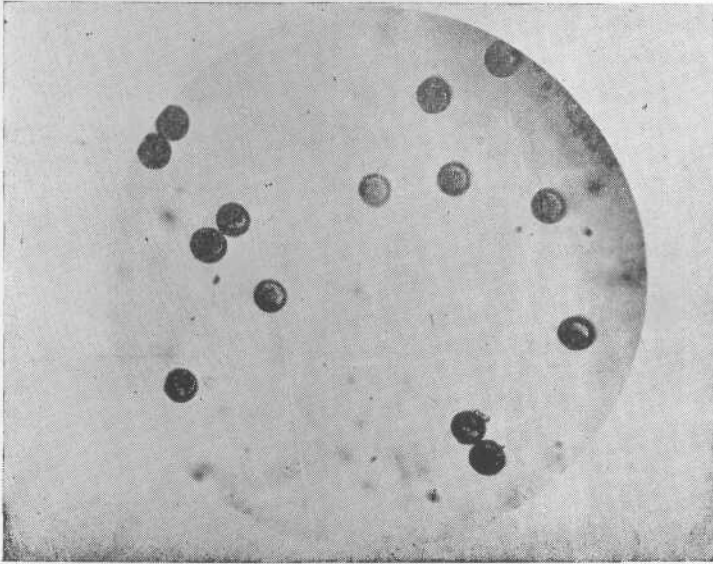


Fig. 1. Untreated rice pollen

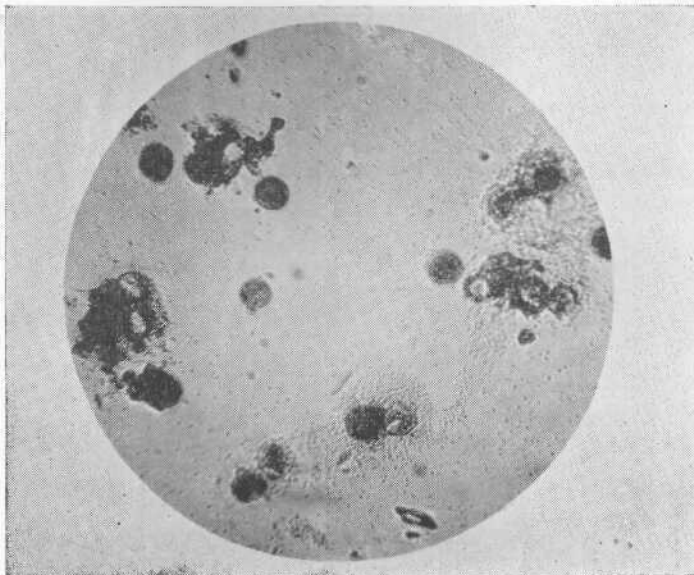


Fig. 2. Rice pollen treated with **parathion**