

A GRANULOSIS VIRUS OF THE RICE LEAF ROLLER,
CNAPHALOCROCIS MEDINALIS GUENEE
(PYRAUSTIDAE, LEPIDOPTERA)

The rice leaf roller *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* has recently become a serious pest all over India. Steinhaus and Marsh (1962) first reported the incidence of a granulosis in the larvae of *C. medinalis* collected from Fiji. But there is no previous record of this disease in India.

In 1972, many larvae collected from paddy fields in and around Trivandrum showed signs and symptoms characteristic of a granulosis infection. A granulosis virus was isolated and its pathogenicity proved subsequently. The infected larvae turned pale white in the initial stages and milky white as the disease advanced. The body became stretched considerably and the cuticle ruptured on the slightest disturbance releasing a milky white fluid. The larvae died in 6-10 days after the ingestion of the virus. The infected larvae showed a characteristic behaviour of migrating to the leaf tips before death though occasionally a few remained inside the leaf folds also.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the identification of the pathogen by Dr. J. R. Adams, Insect Pathology Laboratory, Beltsville, U. S. A.

REFERENCE

- Steinhaus, E. A. and Marsh, G. A. 1962. Report of diagnoses of diseased insects 1951-19(51). *Hilgardia*, 33: 349-490.

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THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF KERALA

(Statement about the ownership and other particulars about newspaper)

FORM IV

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| 1. Place of publication | Agricultural College & Research Institute, Vellayani, Kerala State. |
| 2. Periodicity of publication | Half yearly. |
| 3. Printer's Name | Kerala Agricultural University
Mannuthy. |
| 4. Publisher's Name | Kerala Agricultural University
Mannuthy. |
| 5. Editor's Name
Nationality
Address | N. Mohandas,
Indian
Junior Professor in Entomology
Agricultural College, Vellayani,
Trivandrum. |
| 6. Name and address of the individuals who own the Newspaper and partners or share-holders holding more than 1% of the total capital | It is a Journal owned by the Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Trichur and is being published by the Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Trichur, on its behalf. |

I, Shri. N. Mohandas, Editor, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Agricultural College & Research
Institute, Vellayani Kerala State—1973.

(Sd)
Editor