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**ISCHAEMUM ARISTATUM H. AS AN ALTERNATE HOST PLANT FOR
THE PADDY GALL MIDGE *PACHYDIPLOSI* ORYZAE
WOOD MASON (CECIDOMYIIDAE: DIPTERA)**

Ischaemum aristatum H., a graminaceous weed commonly occurring on paddy field bunds was found severely infested by the gall midge *Pachydiplosis oryzae* at the Agricultural College Farm, Vellayani, Kerala. The peak pest incidence as revealed by the occurrence of galls was observed during Oct.-Nov 1973. The hollow galls were pinkish-white and relatively short, the mean lengths of the terminals and axillaries being 1.05 cm and 0.93 cm respectively. Attempts for effecting reciprocal crosses involving virgin adults reared out from *I. aristatum* and paddy were successful. The severe infestation of *I. aristatum* during October-November, in the absence of paddy crop of susceptible stages, clearly indicates the role of alternate host in the seasonal carry-over of the pest. This is the first Indian record of *P. oryzae* on *I. aristatum*, the only other report being from Thailand (Wongsiri *et al.* 1971).

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REFERENCE

- Wongsiri, T., Vungsilabatur, P., and Hidaka, T. (1971) Studies on the ecology of the rice gall midge in Thailand, *In proc. of a symp. on Rice Insects*, Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo, Japan, pp 267-290.

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