

## OCCURRENCE OF *THAIA SUBRUF* MOPTSCHULSKY (HOMOPTERA : CICADELLIDAE) AS A PEST OF RICE

A huge population of *Thaia subrufa* was found on mature rice plants of the variety IR 20 in Bison Valley, Idukki District, Kerala during April, 1990. Despite the huge population, no hopper burn symptom was observed. Infestation was also noticed at Chakkupallam, Idukki District during January- February, 1993. This is a tiny leaf hopper measuring 2.5-3 mm in length. Abdomen and eyes are black and tegmina is pale white in colour. The pest was found to thrive on

graminaceous weeds also. Gowda *et al.* (1983) have reported *T. subrufa* as a pest of rice seedlings from Karnataka. This insect was reported as a minor pest of rice from the former Malabar District (Ayyar, 1963). This is the first report of an outbreak of *T. subrufa* from Kerala.

I am thankful to Dr.M.R. Wilson of C.A.B. International Institute of Entomology, London for identifying the insect.

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