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**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *NISIA ATROVENOSA* LETHIERRY
(HOMOPTERA : MENOPLIDAE) ON *PISTIA STRATIOTES*
LINN. (FAM. ARACEAE) IN INDIA.**

The water lettuce *pistia stratiotes* Linn., is one among the notorious floating water weeds and enjoys a wide distribution in India and abroad. Sankaran and Rao (1972) recorded *Namangana pectinicornis* Hmps. (Lepidoptera : noctuidae) and *nymphula responsalis* Walker (Lepidoptera : Pyralidae) on *pistia* in India. Other insect pests reported on *P.stia* from different countries are *Neohydronomus pulchellus* Hustache, *Onychylis cretata* Oliv., *Argentinorhynchus nitens* Hustache, *A. squamosus* Hustache, *Ochetina bruchi* Hustache (all belonging to the family Curculionidae), *Samea multiplicalis* Guenee (Pyraidae), *Paulinia acuminata* DeGeer (Acrididae), *Planococcus citri* (Coccidae), *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* L. (Aphididae) and *Valtissus* sp. (Lygaeidae) (Bennett, 1975).

In April 1976 *Nisia atrovenosa* Lethierry was found infesting *Pistia* in a pond at Ernakulam District of Kerala. The different growth phases of *Nisia* were observed and due to the pest attack, the plants presented an yellowish appearance. When experimented under laboratory conditions, the nymphs of *Nisia* were found to complete successfully their life-cycle on *Pistia*. However reluctance to release *Nisia* as an agent for the biological control of *Pistia* stem from the fact that it is reported as a minor pest of Paddy in India (Nayar *et al*, 1976).

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സംഗ്രഹം

എറണാകുളത്തു് നടത്തിയ ഒരു സർവ്വേയിൽ നിന്നു് നിസിയ അടോവീനോസ എന്ന കീടം കളങ്ങളിലും മറ്റും കണ്ടുവരുന്ന 'പിസ്ട്രിയ സ്ട്രാറ്റിയോട്ടസ്' എന്ന കളയെമ്പൊടികുന്നതായി കണ്ടു. ആദ്യമായാണു് ഈ കീടത്തെ പ്രസ്തുത കളയിൽനിന്നു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

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