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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *TELEONEMIA SCRUPULOSA* STAL. (HEMIPTERA  
TINGIDAE) ON *LANTANA* FROM KERALA

India has got a long list of weeds that pose a threat to the cultivated vegetation. Not negligible among them is *Lantana camara* L. (Fam Verbenaceae) which has already established itself as a very serious weed. It was for the biological control of *Lantana* that *Teleonemia scrupulosa* Stal. (= *Lantana* Dist.) had been imported to India in 1941 from Australia. But the programmes of weed trials had to be totally given up as the insect was suspected to be a pest of teak (Roonwall, 1952). Yet a few of the insects somehow escaped the laboratory and established themselves at Dehra Dun. Sankaran (1971) reported that *T. scrupulosa* has been collected from Uttar Pradesh, and the insect has now spread far and wide in North India and is doing a good job in suppressing the weedy growth of *Lantana* in those places.

Recently a survey was conducted to locate the native insects associated with the various weeds in Kerala. On 7-7-1976 the surveyors came across a *lantana* bush at Vypeen (Cochin) severely affected by *T. scrupulosa*. This is the first record of *Teleonemia scrupulosa* on *Lantana* from Kerala.

Hundreds of bugs at various stages of metamorphosis were found sucking sap from the plant. As a result of the mass attack, the leaves and young shoots of the plant were observed to turn yellowish and shrivelled and finally to dry up. Extensive damage by *Teleonemia scrupulosa* on *Lantana* has been noted along the coastal belts of Alleppey district also. The specimens of *Teleonemia* collected from Cochin appeared slightly darkish than the specimens collected from North India.

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സംഗ്രഹം

'ടെലിയൊനീമിയ സ്കൂപ്പുലോസ' എന്ന കീടം 'ലന്റാന' എന്ന കളകളെ നശിപ്പിക്കാൻ ആന്വേഷിച്ചിരുന്നതും ഇൻഡ്യയിലേക്കു ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു. എന്നാൽ ഈ കീടം തേക്കു മരങ്ങളെയും ബാധിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ടതിനാൽ കളകളെ നശിപ്പിക്കാൻ അവയെ ഉപ-

യോഗിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. എങ്കിലും വടക്കേ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഈ കീടം വ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ആദ്യമായി ഈ കീടത്തെ കേരളത്തിൽ കൊച്ചിയ്ക്കടുത്തും കണ്ടെത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

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