

*Agri. Res. J. Kerala 1977 15 (1)*

**DUPLACHIONASPIS DIVERGENSGREEN (DIASPIDAE : HEMIPTERA)  
A PEST OF LEMONGRASS IN KERALA**

Lemongrass is a valuable oil crop that is infested by very few insect pests like borer, *Chilo traea ceylonica*. During March - April, 1976 a severe incidence of a white scale infesting leaves of the plant was observed in the Agricultural College Farm, Vellayani. The scales are oval in shape with a cottony appearance and measure 1.5 x 1.0 mm. The loci of infestation turned brown around the scales and later coalesced with the nearby ones. In very severe infestation the entire lamina was covered with scales. Later the infested leaves turned pale brown. Wilting of affected leaves was also noticed.

Infestation was accompanied by infection with *Helminthosporium sp.* causing leaf spot disease. Even though the infestation was severe during summer months, the population subsided on the advent of monsoon showers. No previous record of the occurrence of *D. divergens* on lemongrass could be traced in the literature.

The authors are grateful to the Zoological Survey of India for the identification of the scale insect.

സംഗ്രഹം

ഇഞ്ചിപ്പുൽ ഓലകളെ ബാധിക്കുന്നതായി ഡ്യൂപ്ലാഷിയനാസ്പിസ ടൈപേർ ജൻസ് എന്ന ശല്യകീടം കേരളത്തിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതോടൊപ്പം കമീം രോഗ മായ പുള്ളിക്കത്തു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായും കണ്ടു.

REFERENCE

NAIR, M. R. G. K., A new borer on Lemongrass, *Chilo traea ceylonica* *Curr Sci.* 26, 187

College of Agriculture,  
Vellayani.

p. A. RAJAN ASAR(  
A. SREEDHARAN  
J. JOHNSON