ABSTRACT: Black pepper is an important spice crop grown in Kerala state. Idukki and Wayanad districts contribute major share in production of this spice crop. More than 80 percent of pepper vines grown in this area are trailed on *Erythrina* spp. A survey has been conducted to ascertain the severity of gall wasp infestation in *Erythrina* spp. The total number of locations and black pepper gardens covered during the survey include 6 blocks and 37 panchayats in Idukki district of Kerala state. *E. variegata* (dense thorn) could be rated as moderately resistant (Scale 2-25% infestation and less) and *E. variegata* (white thorn) as less susceptible (Scale 3-25% to 50% infestation). The reaction of different types/species of *Erythrina* to EWG has revealed that the infestation was higher in black thorn type of *E. variegata* where in the infestation was 75 to 100 percent. Chakkupallam, Erattayar, Kanchiyar of Kattappana panchayats recorded maximum infestation since the pepper growers used black thorned type of *E. variegata* as standards.

KEY WORDS: Black pepper, *Erythria* spp, *Quadrastichus erythrinae*, *Erythrina* Gall Wasp, Idukki

INTRODUCTION

Black pepper is an important spice crop grown in Kerala state. Idukki and Wayanad districts contribute major share in production of this spice crop. More than 80 percent of pepper vines grown in this area are trailed on *Erythrina* spp. The tree is commonly known as coral tree, tiger’s – claw, Japanese coral tree is noted for its seasonal showy red flowers. It is generally

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