



Mango: A new host plant for the lycaenid *Anthene lycaenina lycaenina* (R. Felder, 1868)

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ABSTRACT: *Anthene lycaenina lycaenina* (R. Felder, 1868) is reported on mango for the first time.

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KEY WORDS: Mango, Inflorescence, Lepidoptera, *Anthene lycaenina lycaenina*

Mango, the king of fruits, is an important seasonal fruit crop found growing in the tropical and subtropical countries of the world (Abdullah and Shamsulaman, 2008). This crop belonging to the Anacardacean family holds a rich diversity in the country. Despite the fact that India is one among the leading mango producers, the productivity is much lower compared to countries like China where insect pests form a major reason for this. (Ahuja *et al.*, 2011).

Mango inflorescence houses a number of insect and non-insect pests including thrips, mites, aphids, mealy bugs along with numerous lepidopterans. Infestation of various pests in the inflorescence led to damage and eventually yields loss affecting the flower retention and fruit set (Kannan *et al.*, 2002). A varied set of lepidopteran complex was earlier identified from the mango inflorescence in Karnataka (Verghese and Jayanthi, 1999). Inflorescence sample were collected from the different parts of Thiruvananthapuram district as a part of the study and different lepidopteran species were noticed. The incidence of Dakhan Pointed Ciliate Blue *Anthene lycaenina lycaenina*

(R. Felder, 1868) in mango was noticed for first time from the sample collected from Thiruvallam in the month of November, 2019.

The larva (Fig. 1) was stout reddish brown in colour with two rows of yellowish pattern on the dorsal surface. The larva was found feeding on the flowers of inflorescence which becomes voracious in the



Fig. 1 Caterpillar feeding on mango inflorescence

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Fig. 2 Adult-Dorsal view



Fig. 3 Adult-Ventral view

later stages leaving behind only stalks. The incidence varied with season and the sample collected in the month of November showed the presence of about one to five larva per panicle. The adult lycaenid (Fig. 2) was metallic navy blue in colour having a blackish tinge along the outer margin with a black spot in the ventral surface near the costal margin in hind wing and another black spot towards the anal angle with an orange coloured spot topping them (Fig. 3).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are indebted to Mr. Sangamesh R Hiremath, Kerala Agricultural University regarding the identification of the specimen.

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(Received August 22, 2020; revised ms accepted September 13, 2020; printed September 30, 2020)