

TABLE II

Age of plants	Percentage of plants
1-2 years	100
3-4 years	100
5-6 years	100
7-8 years	100
9-10 years	100
11-12 years	100
13-14 years	100
15-16 years	100
17-18 years	100
19-20 years	100
21-22 years	100
23-24 years	100
25-26 years	100
27-28 years	100
29-30 years	100
31-32 years	100
33-34 years	100
35-36 years	100
37-38 years	100
39-40 years	100
41-42 years	100
43-44 years	100
45-46 years	100
47-48 years	100
49-50 years	100

Bombay Locust -

A Pest from the Laccadives

BY

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Patanga succincta L., popularly known as Bombay Locust, has been noticed as a serious pest on coconut trees in Laccadive Islands. The occurrence of this

insect in pest form was first noticed by me in 1960 in Kadamath and Agathy Islands. By 1967 it was again doing considerable damage to coconut leaves in Agathy. Prolonged dry weather may be having a beneficial influence on the rapid multiplication of Bombay Locust in Laccadive Islands.

The pest is confined to an area of about 200 acres in the southern uninhabited portion of the South Pandaram Land of Agathy. It is seldom seen in the inhabited areas of the Island.

The locust eats away the laminal portion of the leaflets. In severe cases, about 85 per cent of the leaves of the tree are found to have been affected. However, newly emerged leaves on the crowns are not generally infested.

The adults show preference for coconut leaves even though other types of vegetation such as Punna (*Calopyllum inophyllum*), Kanni (*Scaevola koenigii*), Patti (*Portulaca oleracea*) and Goat's-foot Creeper or Muyalvalli (*Ipomoea biloba*) are also found affected to a lesser extent.

The pest is semi-gregarious in habit. On each severely affected tree about 100 to 150 numbers are seen. When the affected tree is disturbed, they fly in different directions to the adjoining trees.



The Bombay Locust

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Coconut palms destroyed by the locust



Coconut leaves eaten away by the locust

The adult female is about 70 mm. long while the male measures about 65 mm. The adults are active during day-time and sluggish at night.

Even though the adults spend most of their time on the crowns of coconut trees, many of them are seen on ground from about 10 a.m. to about 3.30 p.m. Probably they come to bask in the sun when the ground warms up. Eggs are laid on the ground and hoppers are found mostly in

the months of January to March feeding on grass and Kanni.

When the South West monsoon commences, a major portion of the locusts are blown into the sea and many perish due to the fast winds and the beating rains. However, chemical control measures and burning of ground vegetation were taken up when the pest attack was severe. But there were no recommended control measures against this parti-

cular pest. Nor were low concentrations of insecticides effective. So spraying Dieldrin 50 per cent W. P. one kilogram in 50 litres of water, Endrin 20 E.C. per litre of water and Folidol 1.5 c.c. per litre of water were used and found effective. Dusting BHC 10 per cent at 10 Kg. per acre on ground controlled the hoppers. Micron and other power sprayers were more effective than hand sprayers for combating this pest on crown of palms.