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A NEW SCALE INSECT PEST OF CLOVE

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Mycetaspis personata (COMSTOCK) (Diaspididae : Homoptera) has been recorded as a new pest of clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*) in Kerala, India.

(Key words : Scale insect pest, *Mycetaspis personata*, clove.)

The masked scale *Mycetaspis personata* (COMSTOCK) (Diaspididae : Homoptera) was observed infesting leaves of clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*) at Pappanamcode in Trivandrum District (Kerala State, India) in August 1977. This is the first record of the occurrence of this insect in India and as a pest of clove. *M. personata* is known as a polyphagous pest of fruit trees and palms in Egypt (LEPAGE & GIANNOTTI, 1943 ; EL MINSHAWY & OSMAN, 1974) and as a serious pest of mango (*Mangifera indica*), requiring often applied control,

and studies have been made on its ecology and control (SALAMA, 1970, 1972; SALAMA & SALEH, 1971, 1972).

The scale was observed infesting the undersurface of leaves of young clove plants (Fig.1). The infested leaves became discoloured and completely yellowish in due course. The attacked leaves finally dropped. The older leaves of the plant were infested more than the younger leaves.

The full grown scale (Fig.2) is dome-

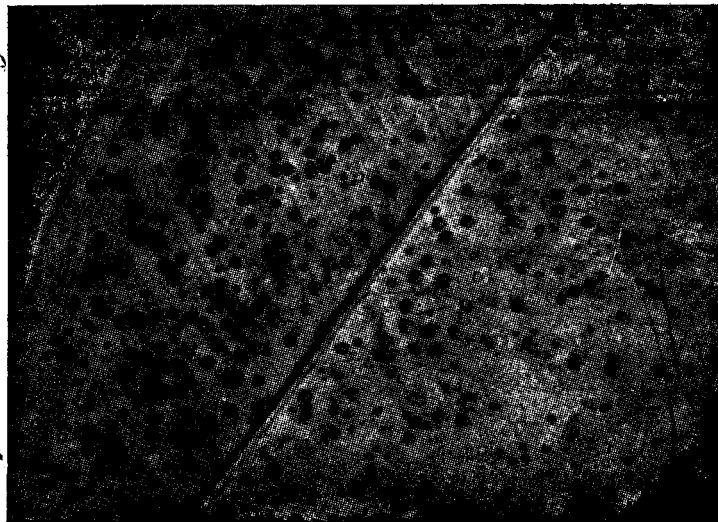


Fig. 1. *M. personata* on clove leaf.

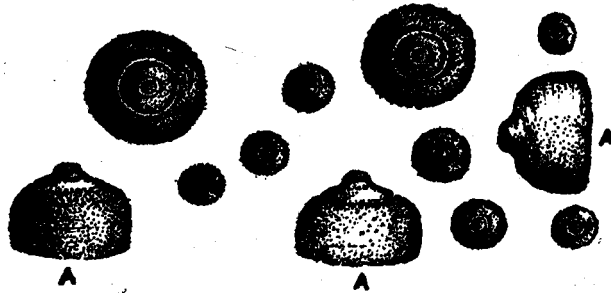


Fig. 2. *M. personata*. Scales marked 'A' are adults (side view).

shaped and greyish-brown with basal diameter of 1.24 mm and a height of 0.86 mm. The full-grown female insect is yellowish and sub-hemispherical with a length of 1.13 mm and a width of 0.95 mm. Eggs are laid under the scale packed in white meal.

The scale could be controlled by application of monocrotophos 0.05% emulsion.

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