

of the male is constituted by a single, long, spine-like tapering process, whereas in the female the number of frenular spines varies from two to five. The family Phycitidae is, however, characterised by the presence of a single frenular spine in both the sexes.

Generally speaking, the shape of the frenulum in the males of different species is more or less similar. The frenulum of the male of *Pycnarmon cribrata*, on the other hand, is uniquely distinct from all the other species. The tip of the frenulum in this species is swollen to form a well-developed head which gives the appearance of a capitate frenulum as compared to the setaceous form of the frenulum in all the other species. Several males of this species that have been studied have the same type of frenulum which shows that the atypical structure of the frenulum is not met with in one or two individuals but it is a common character of the species. There seems to be no report so far of such a capitate frenulum in this species.

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#### Record of a Coreid Bug (Nut Crinkler) as a New Pest of Coconut in India

Reports were received as early as 1961 from different parts in Kerala on the shedding of immature coconuts which presented characteristic cracks and gummosis. Recently, nymphs and adults of a coreid bug were observed in association with such nuts in a garden adjacent to this research institute. In the laboratory, these bugs fed on female flowers (buttons) and immature nuts. The feeding punctures produced just below the perianth developed into necrotic lesions, which left permanent somewhat deep furrows or crinkles with gummosis. In the field, four nymphs of the bug caged with muslin cloth bag on inflorescence had fed on all the 21 one month old buttons and caused their shedding. In a bunch, those buttons which escaped shedding in spite of the attack by the bug developed into undersized or barren nuts.

These nut-crinklers with antennae black except for the white basal half of the terminal joint, are reddish-brown above, pale beneath. Adults measure 1.7 to 1.9 cm long and 0.5 to 0.6 cm wide at mesothorax. Nymphs are dark reddish-brown with two black spots on the dorsal aspect of abdomen, at the centre, one

behind the other. They are provisionally identified as *Amblypelta* sp. *A. cocophaga* China is reported causing the same type of damage in Solomon Islands (Phillips, 1940<sup>1</sup>; O'Connor, 1950<sup>2</sup>). Brown (1955)<sup>3</sup> and Vanderplank (1958)<sup>4</sup> reported a similar bug *Pseudotheraptus wayi* Brown as a serious pest of coconut palm in East Africa, Zanzibar and neighbouring Islands, causing nearly identical loss to the crop. In India, we are reporting the pest for the first time.

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2. O'Connor, B. A., *Agric. J. Fiji.*, 1950, **21**, 21.
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#### Occurrence of *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* Guenee (Lepidoptera: Pyraustidae) on Ragi in Mysore

During July, August 1971, *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* has been found as a minor pest of ragi at Malur, Chikkahalhalli, Kulumepalya; Doddaballapur and Hebbal in Mysore State. In most of the places ragi is grown as a rainfed crop in large area. The percentage of infestation on dry land ragi is 5-21, whereas on irrigated ragi it is 14-50. During this period mostly larval stages were observed on the crop and not on grasses. The larva has been noted to fold the leaf margins by bringing together and flattening the opposite edges by means of a silken thread. The length of the fold varies from one to one and a half inches. The larva not only folds the margins of a single leaf, but also it folds two or three leaves. The caterpillars are migratory in habit. The caterpillar fed in these folded portions of the leaves. The damaged portion of the blade turned whitish and finally dried.

The insect was observed on ragi crop for the first time and is becoming more common and polyphagous. This indicates the possibilities of its assuming the status of a serious pest on ragi also.

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Bangalore-24, October 23, 1971.