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MYCOSIS ON TEA MOSQUITO *HELOPELTIS ANTONII* S.*

The tea mosquito *Helopeltis antonii* (Miridae : Hemiptera) is the most serious pest of cashew. Feeding of the shoot and panicle by the nymph and adult bugs result in their blight. This ultimately causes heavy losses in yield. Both nymphs and adults of this pest were observed, in the field and laboratory cages, to be infected with a yellowish-green fungus. It was identified as *Aspergillus flavus* Link, after isolating it and culturing in PDA medium. Sterile water spore suspension was sprayed on shoots infested with tea mosquito. Control was sprayed with sterile water only. The infected bugs became inactive and gradually stopped feeding. The mortality amounted to 22.5-47.5 per cent in 24-48 h of the appearance of the symptoms. Those sprayed with only sterile water remained healthy and no death was observed. The dead insects developed a thick growth of the fungus mainly at the thoracic region of the body. Reisolation of the organism confirmed the pathogenicity of the fungus.

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