

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

**NEW REPORT OF COCCINELLID PREDATORS, (COL.:
COCCINELLIDAE) FEEDING ON APHID, *SCHIZONEURAPHIS
HIMALAYENSIS* (GHOSH & RAYCHAUDHURI) (HEM.:
APHIDIDAE) ON MUGA FOOD PLANT SOM, *PERSEA
BOMBYCINA* KOST IN ASSAM, INDIA**

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Som, *Persea bombycina* Kost is the primary food/host plant of muga silkworm, *Antheraea assamensis* (Helfer) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) for the production of golden yellow silk in Assam (India). It is attacked by borers, beetles, gall insects, sucking pests. Among sucking pests, recently small green aphids infested the som plants after pruning particularly during new flush. Both nymphs and adults were found in the colonies on tender buds, shoots, lower surface of leaves and suck the sap which results in curling and reduction in the size of the leaves. Aphids also secrete honeydew on tender parts of the plant and develop black sooty mould which affects the photosynthesis activity, vigour of the plant and deterioration of the quality of the leaves which becomes unfit for rearing of *A. assamensis*. Presence of ants on the plants indicates the incidence of aphids.

During the incidence of aphids on *P. bombycina*, the number of predatory coccinellid nymphs and adults of *Coleophora boweringi* Crotch, *Coleophora saucia* Mulsant, *Harmonia dimidiata* (Fabricius), *Phrynocaria unicolor* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) were observed feeding (Fig 1 to 7) on the nymphs and adults of aphid, *Schizoneuraphis himalayensis* on *P. bombycina* during the month of June 2010 at Farm No.1, Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute, Lahdoigarh, Jorhat, Assam (India). This is the first record of above coccinellid predators feeding on aphids. There fore conservation of these predators in som plantations is need of the hour to reduce the aphid population naturally without reaching to the Economic Injury Level (EIL). The above predators can be used as a potential bio control agents for the management of aphids in the primary host plant (som) of muga silkworm.

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Figure 1 Coccinellid grubs feeding on aphids. Figure 2. *Phrynocaria unicolor* adults feeding on aphids.



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Figure 3. *Phrynocaria unicolor*. Figure 4. *Phrynocaria unicolor* adult feeding on nymph of aphid. Figure 5. *Phrynocaria unicolor*.



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Figure 6. *Coleophora bowringi*.



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Figure 7. *Hormonia dimidiata*.