

been noted on the parasite to reduce its efficacy. (3) The parasite has not been noted till now on any other host and hence it is specific in action. (4) The egg-laying capacity of the female is also fairly high the maximum and the average being 97 and 55 eggs respectively. (5) The rearing of parasites under laboratory conditions is not difficult as stems with larvae having plugs were readily accepted by the parasite.

From these observations it will be clearly seen that *Elasmus zehntneri*, Ferr., is a fairly efficient parasite of the sugarcane stem borer.

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Research Notes.

I

Mite pests of Citrus.

Insects affecting citrus are many of which the fruit sucking moths, the citrus butterfly, the leaf miner etc., are the most troublesome. Besides insects there are mites (Acarina) which occasionally do some damage. One of these—*Tetranychus*—(*Schizotetranychus*) *hindustanicus*, Hirst, sucks the leaf-sap with the result that discoloured patches are produced on the leaves. The adult mites which are greenish yellow in colour are found also on Persian neem, margosa and 'curry leaf' plant.

There is yet another mite—an Eriophyid—which attacks citrus fruits. It has been noted for the first time in South India from Penagalur (Cuddappa district) and Poonapalle (Chittoor district). Studies on the mite have shown that as a result of the attack of the pest a rust-like discolouration is produced on the surface of the fruit which appears to be due to the mites feeding on the epidermal cells causing the surface of the fruit to harden. It has however to be stated in this connection that the attacked fruits do not show any difference in taste from the un-attacked ones, but according to the owners of gardens the damage to fruits reduces their value. Detailed studies regarding the pest and its control are in progress.

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II

A Banana from Hawaii.

Of the 5 varieties of Bananas received from Honolulu, Hawaii, *Palua* proved to be *Kaio*. This *Kaio* variety has the look of *Nendran* from the beginning of its growth but on flowering it proved different in that it had neither the persistent bract nor the persistent neutral flowers. It has the ordinary naked axis bearing male flowers. The unripe fruits are excellent, even better than *Nendran* for making fritters (crisps). It is also excellent for other vegetable preparations. The colour of the flesh is the same as that of *Nendran*. The fruit on ripening is found to have the same taste and flavour of *Nendran*. The flesh of the ripe fruit is soft and has sub-acid taste. The ripe fruit does not keep well. The ripe fruit is therefore inferior to that of *Nendran*. This variety has to be tried in the West Coast to see whether the sub-acid taste might undergo any change. A bunch produced at the Banana Experimental Area, Coimbatore, had 9 hands, 91 fingers and weighed 35½ lbs. The shape of the fruit is very peculiar in having no apex at all. Hence the local name *Motta Nendran* is suggested for this variety.

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