

A preliminary list of the Tingid Fauna of South India*

by

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Synopsis: The present paper gives an account of the host plants, seasonal occurrence, distribution and economic status of the tingids occurring in South India.

The tingids (Tingidae: Hemiptera), popularly known as lace wing bugs, comprise a moderately large assemblage of soft bodied insects ranging generally from 2 to 5 mm. in length. They are entirely plant feeders and both adults and nymphs obtain food by sucking the juices from the plant tissues. Often they occur in large proportions to constitute important plant pests.

The present paper is based on a collection of lace bugs made in South India by the author during the period 1959-'62. Twenty species are new to this region and for all the species new host records are given.

Sub - Family : Tinginae.

1. *Monanthia globulifera* Walk.

Syn: *Cochlochila bullita* Horvath.

Distant — Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 123.

Host plants : *Ocimum sanctum*, *O. adscendens*, *O. basilicum*, *Coleus* spp. and other *Ocimums*.

New host record : *Ocimum adscendens*.

Season : Occurs throughout the year. Population increases after the monsoon rains when fresh growth of plants occur. During summer they kill the plants by their feeding.

Distribution : Throughout South India.

Economic status : An important pest of ornamental *Coleus* which when attacked succumbs to the infestation.

2. *Monanthia nilgiriensis* Dist.

Distant — Fauna. Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. II, 1904, p. 144.

Host plant : *Cordia* sp. — New record.

Season : Noted during August 1962.

Distribution : Nilgiri Hills, Coimbatore. New record for Coimbatore.

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3. *Habrochila laeta* Drake.

Drake—Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 67, 1954, p. 12.

Host plants: *Barlaria cristata*, *B. noctiflora* and *Crossandra* sp.
All the three hosts are new records for this insect.

Season: Throughout the year.

Distribution: Whole of South India.

Economic status: A severe pest of *B. cristata* which is a cultivated ornamental crop.

4. *Phenotropis cleopatra* Distant.

Drake—Hemiptera: British Museum Expedition to South West Arabia, Vol. I, No. 27-33, p. 415.

Host plants: *Indigofera viscosa*, *Tephrosia noctiflora*, *T. purpurea* and *Indigofera* spp. All are new host records.

Season: Throughout the year except the rainy season when they are washed off completely.

Distribution: Whole of South India. First record for this region.

Economic status: A pest of the above noted weeds.

5. *Stephanitis typicus* Distant

Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 108.

Host plants: *Cocos nucifera*, *Musa sapientum*, *M. paradisiaca* and *Elettaria cardamomum*.

Season: Occurs all through the year.

Distribution: Throughout South India.

Economic status: A pest of bananas and coconut.

6. *Stephanitis charieis* D. & M.

The Great Basin Naturalist, Vol. 21, No. 4, 108-13.

Host plants: *Artocarpus integrifolia*. This is the first record of a tingid on this host and this species can be differentiated from *S. typicus* Dist. by the prominent lateral carinae.

Season: Occurs throughout the year.

Distribution: Coimbatore and Panruti.

Economic status: Minor pest of jack.

7. *Urentius echinus* Distant.

Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. 2, 1904, p. 134.

Host plants: *Solanum melongena*, *S. xanthocarpum*, *S. torvum* and *S. indicum*. The latter three hosts are new records for this species.

- Season: Occurs in large numbers during summer and causes severe damage to the brinjal crop.
Distribution: Whole of South India.
Economic status: A pest of brinjal during summer.
8. *Urentius sentis* Distant.
Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V. 1910, p. 113.
Host plants: *Solanum melongena* and *S. xanthocarpum*; the latter host is a new record.
Season: During summer months.
Distribution: South Arcot district of Madras State. First record of this species in South India.
Economic status: Minor pest of brinjal.
9. *Urentius hystericellus* (Richt.)
Syn: *Ayrerus hystericellus* Richt.
Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. II. 1904, p. 140.
Host plants: *Solanum melongena*.
Distribution: Madras State. First record for this region.
Economic status: Minor pest of brinjal.
10. *Urentius euonymus* Distant.
Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V. 1910, p. 114.
Host plants: *Sida cardifolia*. New host record.
Distribution: Throughout South India.
Economic status: A serious pest of the above weed.
11. *Bako malayanus* (Drake).
Syn: *Galeotingis malayana* Drake.
Drake—Bol. Mus. Nat. (Brasil), No. 81, p. 2, 1947.
Host plants: *Panicum repens*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cenchrus glaucus*, *Oryza sativa* and *Saccharum officinarum*. All are new host records.
Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for India.
Economic status: Occurs as a minor pest in all the above noted hosts. It attacks rice and sugarcane only in the seedling stage but does not thrive well when the plants mature.
12. *Aconchus urbanus* Horvath.
Horvath—Tingitidae novae Vel Minus Cognitae e Regione Palearctica. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hungarici. Vol. 3, 1905.
Host plants: *Eurochloa reptans*. New host record.

Distribution: Throughout South India. New record of Genus and species for India.

Season: Occurs throughout the year except the summer when the grass *E. reptans* dries up.

Economic status: A pest on the above grass.

13. *Pontanus puerilis* Drake & Poor.

Drake—South African Animal life, Vol. 3, P. 147.

Host plant: *Tectona grandis* (Teak tree). New host record.

Distribution: Walayar forest (Kerala) and Bangalore. New record for South India.

14. *Lasiocantha cuneata* (Distant).

Syn: *Jannaeus cuneatus* Distant.

Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 118.

Host plant: *Peristrophe bicalyculata*. New host record.

Season: Throughout the year.

Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for this region.

Economic status: Pest of the above mentioned weed.

15. *Lasiocantha altimitra* (Takeya)

Drake—Great Basin Nat., Vol. 13, Nos. 3-4, p. 92, 1953.

Host plant: *Justicia prostrata*. New host record.

Season: All through the year except summer months when the host plant dries up.

Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for this region.

Economic status: Pest of the above mentioned weed.

16. *Mummius* sp.

Host plant: *Trichodesma indica*. New host record.

Distribution: South India. Genus new record for Asia and India.

Economic status: Pest of the above mentioned weed.

17. *Corythauma ayyari* Drake.

Syn: *Leptopharsa ayyari* Drake.

Drake—J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 36 (4), p. 1016, 1933.

Host plant: *Jasminum sambac*.

Season: Throughout the year.

Distribution: Whole of South India.

Economic status: A pest of Jasmine, occasionally becoming severe.

18. *Dictyla cheriani* Drake.
Syn: *Monanthia cheriani* Drake. --
Drake—J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 39, 1936, p. 145.
Host plants: *Cordia* spp.
Season: Throughout the year.
Distribution: Coimbatore and Cuddalore.
Economic status: A pest of *Cordia* spp. which are ornamental plants.
19. *Naochila arete* D. & M.
The Great Basin Naturalist, Vol. 21, No. 4, 108-13.
Host plants: *Cordia* spp. New host record.
Season: Throughout the year.
Distribution: Coimbatore. New record.
Economic status: A pest of the above mentioned ornamental plants.
20. *Abdastartus atrus* (Motschulsky).
Drake—Rev. Zool. Bot. Africaine. Vol. 53, Nos. 1-2, p. 110, 1956.
Host plant: *Saccharum officinarum*.
Season: During the cropping season.
Distribution: Coimbatore, Villupuram and Cuddalore.
Economic status: A minor pest of sugarcane at all stages of the crop.
21. *Perissonemia ecmeles* D. & M.
The Great Basin Naturalist, Vol. 21, No. 4, 108-13.
Host plant: *Ficus* sp. First record.
Season: Throughout the year.
Distribution: Kallar, South India.
Economic status: Minor pest.
22. *Belenus dentatus* Fieb.
Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 115.
Host plant: *Eurochloa reptans*. New host record.
Season: Throughout the year except summer months when the host grass dries up.
Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for this region.
Economic status: Minor pest.

23. *Cysteochila javensis* Drake & Poor.

Drake & Poor—Philippine Journ. Sci., Vol. 62, No. 1, p. 6, 1937.

Host plant: *Oldenlandia umbellata*, New host record.

Season: Throughout the year.

Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for this region. Previously known only from Java.

24. *Dasytingis semota* Drake & Lutz.

Drake & Lutz—Bull. Brooklyn. ent. Soc., Vol. 48, p. 104, 1953.

Host plants: An unidentified forest tree.

Distribution: Papanasam hills in South India.

25. *Dulinius conchatus* Distant.

Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 110.

Host plant: *Morinda tinctoria*.

Season: Throughout the year.

Distribution: Throughout South India. New record for this region.

Economic status: A pest of *M. tinctoria* which is a medicinal plant.

Sub-Family: Cantacadarinae:26. *Cantacada quadricornis* (Le Peletier & Serville)

Syn: *Picsma quadricornis* Le Peletier & Serville.

Le Peletier & Serville—Encyclopedie methodique, Vol. 10, Pt. 2, p. 653, 1828.

Host plant: *Eurochloa reptans*. New host record.

Distribution: Coimbatore. New record.

Economic status: Minor pest of this grass.

27. *Cantacada quinquecostatus* (Fieb.)

Distant—Fauna Brit. Ind. Rhynch., Vol. V, 1910, p. 100.

Host plant: *Eurochloa reptans*. New host record.

Distribution: Coimbatore. New record.

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