ON SOME HOSTS OF LAC INSECT, *KERRIA LACCA* (KERR)

By

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The lac insect, *Kerria lacca* (Kerr) has been observed to thrive on the following lac host plant species in different crop seasons at Amjharia (Distt.-Palamau, Bihar, Namkum Distt. Ranchi, Bihar) and Muri (Distt. Ranchi, Bihar)

Desmodium pulchellum Benth (Baryari).

Leguminosae.

This species carried both the strains of lac insect to maturity through artificial inoculations during *katki* 1975, *baisakhi* 1975–76, *katki* 1976, *baisakhi* 1976–77 of *rangeeni* strain and *jethwi* 1977 of *kusmi* strain at Amjharia.

Desmodium heterocarpum (L.) DC.

Leguminosae

This species carried *rangeeni* strain of lac insect to maturity during *baisakhi* 1975–76 crop season at Namkum plantation. It got inoculation from the adjoining *palas* [*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.] carrying lac.

Desmodium gangeticum DC.

Leguminosae

This species has been found carrying *kusmi* strain of lac insect during *jethwi* 1975 and 1977 crop seasons at Amjharia. The bushes carried inoculations from the adjoining *bhalia* [*Moghania macrophylla* (Willd.) O. Ktze] bushes which is one of the major bushy lac hosts.

Grewia hirsuta Vahl (*Gursikri*)

Tiliaceae

This species has been found carrying *kusmi* strain of lac insect during *jethwi* 1977 crop seasons at Amjharia through artificial inoculation.

Hibiscus syriacus Linn. (*Hudhul*)

Malvaceae

This plant species has been found carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac insect during *katki* 1975, grown in private garden at Namkum. The plant got inoculation accidentaly.

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Millettia extensa Benth (*Genai*)
(= *M. auriculata* Baker ex Brandis).
Leguminosae

This plant species has been observed carrying both the *rangeeni* and *kusmi* strains of lac insect at Amjharia.

Putranjiva roxburghii Wall. (*Pitaunji*)
Euphorbiaceae

This tree has been found at Muri Rly. Station carrying *rangeeni* strain of lac during *baisakhi* 1975-76 crop season through self-inoculation from the preceding crop.

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