REVIEW OF RESEARCH
IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631(UIF) UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514 ISSN: 2249-894X
VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 6 | MARCH - 2019

INSECT FAUNA ASSOCIATED WITH THE TREE *ALBIZIA LEBBECK* L. ON THE CAMPUS OF WALCHAND COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, SOLAPUR (MAHARASHTRA)

S. R. Aland
Department of Zoology, Walchand College of Arts and Science, Solapur.

ABSTRACT :

Albizia lebbeck (L.) Benth. (Family: Fabaceae) is commonly known as Siris, Shiris in Hindi. It is chiefly distributed in tropical and subtropical areas of India, Andaman Island, Myanmar, tropical Africa, Asia and northern Australia. A. lebbeck has been of keen interest due to varied phytochemicals and Ayurvedic research due to their excellent medicinal values. Traditionally, it is used as anti-asthmatic, anti-inflammatory, anti-fertility, anti-diarrhoeal, antiseptic, anti-dysenteric and antitubercular.

KEYWORDS : *phytochemicals and Ayurvedic research , survey and observations.*

INTRODUCTION

The survey and observations were made to study insect fauna associated with the tree *A. lebbeck* on the College Campus during May – July 2018. The campus is spread over 20 acres (17.66 53898' N 75.92 58371' E), having floral diversity including herbs, shrubs grasses, plants of social importance. The soil is mixed type and average rainfall is 400 mm. Weekly observations were conducted at 08.00 to 10.00 am and 04.00 to 06.00 pm.

During the survey, in all 13 species of insects were recorded (Table 1). A total of 10 different trees of *A. lebbeck* were observed in a stipulated time. Tender leaves are affected by a weevil *Myllocerus sp.* According to Nayak *et al*., (2007) leaves are largely unaffected by insects, but young leaves may be subject to heavy predation by larvae of the grass yellow butterfly (*Eurema hecoba*). No such kind of incidence was recorded during the present study. During the study a long horned beetle, *Aeolesthes holoserecea* was observed roaming on bark. Almost same observation was made that larvae of longicorn beetles are serious pests bark feeders (Nayak *et al*., 2004). Pandha *et al.*, (2007) conducted a study in Punjab to record the occurrence of natural enemies of pests of *A. Lebbeck* and *A. Procera* in forest nurseries. It was observed that spiders such as *Oxyopes pandae, Araneus nauticus and Zygoballus sp.* In the present study author recorded *Oxyopes pandae, Araneus nauticus* as a natural enemies of pests of *A. Lebbeck.* Moreover, Pandha *et al.*, (2007) reported praying mantid (Creobroter pectipennis) constitute the major natural enemies of insect pests of these species. In the present study also one species of praying mantis was recorded *viz. Acromantis Montana.*

Table 1
Insects associated with the tree *A. lebbeck*

1. *Anoploceminis phasiana* (Fab., 1781)
2. *Halys sp.*
3. Semilooper (Unknown sp.)

4. *Inderbella sp.*
5. *Aeolesthes holosericea* (Fab., 1787)
6. *Myllocerus sp.*
7. *Oxyopes pandae* (Tikader, 1989)
8. *Araneus nauticus* (Clerck, 1757)
9. Parasitoid (Unknwon species)
10. *Camponotus compressus* (Fab., 1787)
11. *Acromantis Montana* (Giglio-Toss, 1915)
12. *Oxyrachis sp.*
13. Leaf Skeletonizer (Unknown species)

One species of ant (*Camponotus compressus*) recorded feeding on nectar secreted by tumor like nectar secreting glands. Another observation related with ants was observed that, they feed on sugary substance released by a cow bug, *Oxyrachis species*. Two species of bugs such as *Anoploceminis phasiana* (Sap sucker) and *Halys sp.* (Predator) were recorded.

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