

## OCCURRENCE OF *HYPOMECESES SQUAMOSUS* (COLEOPTERA, CURCULIONIDAE) ON *HEVEA* RUBBER : A NEW RECORD FROM INDIA

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Infestation of the leaves of budwood nursery plants of *Hevea brasiliensis* by the weevil *Hypomeces squamosus* F. was noticed for the first time at Sarutari Farm, Assam in March, 1989. The infestation index was recorded for three consecutive years from 1990. Highest infestation index and maximum number of weevils per plant were observed in the month of April.

Key words: *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Hypomeces squamosus* (F.), Infestation index, India.

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During a survey for pests on rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg.) in Assam (North Eastern India), a foliar insect pest (weevil) causing considerable damage to leaves in different clones of budwood nursery plants was noticed. The pest was identified as *Hypomeces squamosus* F. (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). This weevil was first recorded at Sarutari Farm (80 m above MSL) in Assam during February/March, 1989 and infestation on rubber plants was not found so far in other states of north east region. Though this weevil has been recorded on many host plants including citrus, sweet potato, sugarcane, cotton and sunflower (Booth, *et al.*, 1990), it has not so far been reported on *Hevea* rubber in India. The infestation of the weevil, *Eumeces squamosus* however was reported on rubber in Malaysia (Sharples, 1936).

Observations on the incidence of the weevil was carried out in budwood

nursery plants at Sarutari farm at monthly intervals from January to June on 10 randomly selected plants for 3 years from 1990 to 1992. The number of adult

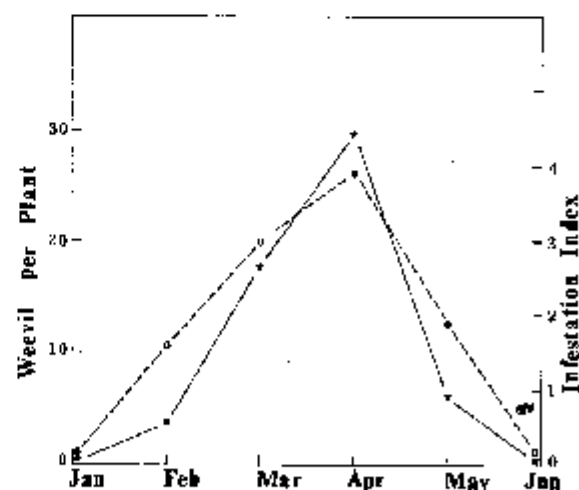


Fig. 1. Variability in weevil per plant (—) and infestation index (---) in budwood nursery of *Hevea* rubber during different months (Mean data of 3 years)