

of Hepaticae had evolved from *Takak u* ( $n = 4$ ) through doubling of chromosomes.

Mehra's failure to observe evidence of diploidy in species growing in these areas (W. H. and Punjab plains) may have been due to 100% incomplete chromosomal association at pachytene (6% in present findings). He has however reported diploidy in *Asterella reticulata*, *A. blumcana* and *Athalmia pinguish*.

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Naini Tal, U.P., November 19, 1974.

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***Polistes hebraeus* (Fabricius) Preying upon *Rhipiphorothrips cruentatus* Hood (Thripidae:Thysanoptera)**

*Rhipiphorothrips cruentatus* Hood is a polyphagous species and has been reported to feed upon *Vitis* spp., *Lagerstroemia indica*; *Punica granatum* Linn.; *Syzygium jambolana* (Linn.); *Careya arborea* Roxb.; *Anacardium occidentale* Linn.; *Terminalia catappa*, *Mangifera indica* and *Rosa* sp.<sup>1-3</sup>. During survey on pests of ornamental trees and shrubs at Ludhiana in the months of August–November, 1974, rose plants were found to be attracting large number of the workers of the yellow wasp, *Polistes hebraeus* (Fabricius). Observations were, therefore, made on the status of this wasp in the rose ecosystem.

On close observation, the adult wasps were found feeding on the nymphs of the thrips. The workers started their activity at 09 hr and continued till 17 hr daily. On an average, a single shoot of the rose infested by the thrip was visited 14 times per hour and 3–5 minutes were spent per shoot by the nymph searching wasp which located its prey in the young tender shoots with the help of to and fro movements of its antennae. The starved wasps when put in glass jars (10 × 15 cm) along with the rose shoots each having twenty nymphs in each jar, it devoured 12–16 nymphs in an hour which further confirmed its predatory role.

Ananthakrishnan<sup>1,2</sup> mentioned several insect-enemies of thrips but it seems to be a first record of *Polistes hebraeus* (Fabricius) being predaceous on *Rhipiphorothrips cruentatus* Hood feeding on roses.

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***Sophora tomentosa* Linn.—A New Host for *Macrosiphum (Acyrtosiphon) gossypii* Mordv. (Homoptera: Aphididae)**

The aphid, *Macrosiphum (Acyrtosiphon) gossypii* Mordv. has been recorded on cotton and described its pest<sup>1</sup>. Two subspecies of this insect, *paczoskii* and *turanicum* were observed on stems of *Lepidium perfoliatum*<sup>1</sup> and cotton<sup>2</sup> respectively.

During March 1974, *Sophora tomentosa* Linn. a leguminous evergreen shrub cultivated in gardens around bungalows was found very severely infested with *M. (A.) gossypii* Mordv. in the nursery at Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, India. Due to damage done by this aphid the growth of the plant was very much retarded. So far cotton and *Lepidium perfoliatum* are the only recorded hosts of this aphid. Hence, *S. tomentosa* Linn. is a new host for *M. (A.) gossypii* Mordv.

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