

in the stigmas (Figs. 25, 26-31). Some of the wall bundles also extend into the style for a short distance (Figs. 26, 29).

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**A NEW LEAF GALL BY *TRIOZA GIGANTEA*
CRAW. (HOMOPTERA: PSYLLIDAE) ON
VACCINIUM NEILGHERRENSE W.
(VACCINIACEAE)**

INFORMATION on the occurrence of insect galls in Vacciniaceae is meagre. Except for the report of a bud gall on *Vaccinium leschenaultii* W. by an unidentified aphid¹ no other details are available. Leaf galls on *Vaccinium neilgherrense* W. were collected from the Botanical Garden, Yercaud (1,450 m), and the gall maker was identified as *Trioza gigantea* Craw. (Homoptera: Psyllidae). The feeding of nymphs causes almost triangular inward folds of the lamina, occasionally with irregular marginal rolls of the young leaves. Normally the tender leaves are subjected to gall formation, and the galled leaves appear greenish-yellow, while the old leaves are brown, and give a scorched look. All the nymphal stages were found inside the galls surrounded by masses of white waxy threads secreted from the anal pore rings of the nymphs². The psyllid eggs collected from the surface of the galled leaves possess a characteristic hook-like structure at their base (Fig. 1) which enables them to attach themselves to the leaf tissue, and also prevent them from being blown away by wind.

Generally open type psyllid cecidia, or galls without individual closed larval chamber, are uncommon. The nymphs of the *Vaccinium* galls, though not possessing any separate larval chamber, restrict themselves to feeding at a particular spot on the external surface of the galled leaf blades. As reported in the "leaf galls of *Symplocos spicata*"³, the accumulation and feeding of nymphal instars at a spot resulted in severe galling of the leaf which ultimately withered.

Gall psyllids are host-specific, with rare exceptions like *Pauropsylla depressa* Craw. and *P. ficicola* Craw. However, Mathur⁴ reported the occurrence of *Trioza gigantea* as a free-living form collected from an unidentified host plant which is commonly known as 'Uttis'.



FIG. 1. Egg of the gall maker showing the basal pedicel.

Further study is in progress to confirm their host preference.

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