

JL 24 × Chico which was found to bear pegs and pods from the below ground parts of the plant. As can be seen from the figure five well-developed pods originated from the hypocotyl-root transition zone located at 12.7 cm depth from the soil surface. In addition to these pods the plant produced several pods from the shoot portion as is the case in normal plants. All the five pods borne at the hypocotyl-root joint were as healthy and normal as that of those produced from the shoot portion. It appears that the flowers produced deep inside the soil are also capable of developing into pods in groundnut. It is not known whether the off-type plant is a freak or a genetic abnormality which is capable of transmitting this attribute to the subsequent generations. Further investigations on this aspect are in progress. This is the first report on the occurrence of Peanut plant bearing carpophore and pods from hypocotyl-root joint.

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**NEW RECORD OF LARVAL PARASITE,
FRIONA SP (GELINAE: ICHNEUMONIDAE)
ON CARDAMOM SHOOT BORER,
DICHOCROCIS PUNCTIFERALIS GUEN
(PYRALIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA)**

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DICHOCROCIS PUNCTIFERALIS Guen is a serious pest on cardamom in the Lower Pulneys of Tamilnadu causing about 60% damage¹ to pseudostem, panicle, immature capsules and unopened leaf buds. Information on the larval parasites of *D. punctiferalis* is meagre except for a few reports of *Eriborou* (= *Diocetes*) *trochanterata* Morl, *Theronia inareolate*, *Bracon brevicornis*, *Apanteles* sp², *Micobracon hebetor* Say³ and *Palexorista parachrysops* (Bezzi)⁴. The present report is on *Friona* sp, a larval parasite of *D. punctiferalis*, hitherto not recorded.

The ichneumonid, *Friona* sp was observed to probe the pseudostem of cardamom affected by the shootborer, *D. punctiferalis* with its antennae. It made repeated walking on the pseudostem, stopped at a particular spot, tapped with antennae and then inserted its long ovipositor (measuring 7–9 mm long)

inside the pseudostem and remained motionless for 15 min. The spot at which the ovipositor was inserted had been opened wherein a motionless fourth instar larva of *D. punctiferalis* was found. Thirteen days after parasitization a white cocoon was formed near the cadavere and the adult parasite emerged after five days.

During a surveillance study, *Friona* sp was recorded in Thadiyankudissai, Thandigudi and Pachalur (Lower Pulneys), Meghamalai and Anamalai cardamom estates. Further studies are in progress to find out the potentiality of this parasite, host preference and biology.

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**WHITE CANE ROT—A NEW DISEASE OF
RAMIE**

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RAMIE (*Boehmeria nivea* L Gaud), a semi-perennial fibre crop, yields the strongest known vegetable fibre of great commercial importance. The crop yields usually four cuttings of canes per year starting from June to November at an interval of 40–45 days¹. White cane rot disease was first observed during the rainy season of 1985 at the Ramie Research Station. The symptoms of the disease appeared as necrotic, circular spots with concentric rings on the leaf lamina (figure 1). These spots later cover the whole leaf surface (figure 2). The symptoms on the canes