

italica in a field of the Central Farm, Coimbatore. The species of parasite, involved was almost exclusively *Striga densiflora*. An observation made at this time was the attack of *Striga densiflora* on Ragi (*Eleusine coracana*). A few stray ragi plants were found in a field of Italian millet with *Striga densiflora* growing quite close to them. When these were dug up with the earth surrounding them and carefully washed, it was found that the *Striga* had well-formed connections with the ragi plants. One or two of the underground shoots of *Striga* were also found. Fig. 1 shows the aerial shoots of *Striga densiflora* and a small underground shoot among the roots of the ragi plants.

The occurrence of *Striga* on ragi has been observed by Coleman^{4,5} in Mysore as early as 1916, but the species of parasite involved has not been mentioned. However, in a recent account of the diseases of ragi, Venkatarayan⁶ has recorded *Striga lutea* as the parasite affecting this crop in Mysore. Another species of *Eleusine*, *E. aegyptiaca* (*Dactyloctenium aegyptiaca*) was recorded as a host of *Striga densiflora*.¹ But as this grass is no longer considered to be a member of the genus *Eleusine*, but is included under *bactyloctenium*, the present record appears to be the first authentic case of the parasitism of *Striga densiflora* in the genus *Eleusine*.

Other Hosts :

Striga densiflora was found parasitising the following grasses also, *Brachiaria eruciformis* Griseb. (*Panicum isachne* Roth.), *Tragus racemosus* Scop., and *Eragrostis Willdenoviana* Nees. Of these, the specie of *Eragrostis* has

among the fallow plots surrounding the Research Institute. This was a grass, *Tragus racemosus* Scop., which has so far been known

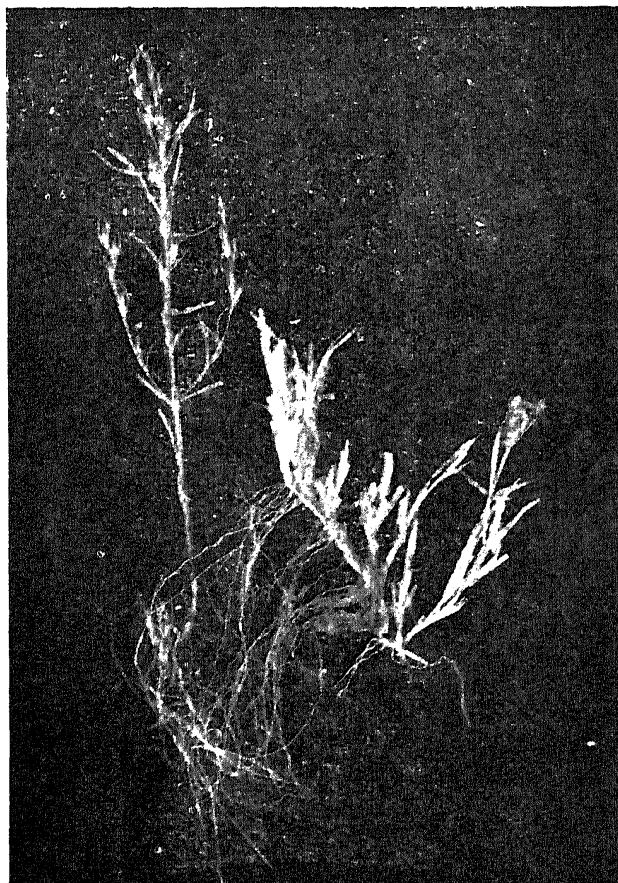


FIG. 3. *Striga lutea* on *Tragus racemosus* Scop.

to be the host of *Striga densiflora* only¹ (Fig. 3).

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FIG. 2. *S. densiflora* on *Eragrostis Willdenoviana* Nees

not been reported as a host of *S. densiflora*. Though Van Burren⁷ has recorded a specie of *Eragrostis* as a host of *S. densiflora*, he has not mentioned the exact specie. Fig. 2 shows the parasitic connections between *Striga* and *Eragrostis*.

A new host for *Striga lutea* was discovered

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3. Bell, A. F., and Cottrell-Dormer, W., *Queens. Agr. J.*, 1931, 36, 463.
4. Coleman, I. C., *Rept. Agr. Dept. Mysore*, 1916-17, 1917.
5. -, *Dept. Agr. Mysore State, Gen. Ser. Bull.*, 11, 1920.
6. Venkatarayan S. V., *Mysore J. of Agri.* 1946, 24, 56.
7. Van Burren, H. L., *Poona Agr. Coll. Mag.*, 1915, 5, Nos. 3 and 4.

VIVIPARY IN PYRUS MALUS

VIVIPARY is a common phenomenon in the mangoes and jack fruit. It has also been reported to occur in mangoes and some grasses.

An apple was purchased at Cuddapah, and the fruit looked quite healthy but not heavy. When the fruit was cut open the outer fleshy portion was found to be spongy. Inside there were 8 healthy seedlings and 2 seeds. The length of the seedlings was about one inch. The broken testa was in tact and all the seedlings were loosely attached to the central axis. The apple was not at all sweet as the seedlings had evidently utilised much of the sugar for their germination and growth.

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