



quinoline (I).¹ It is now found that (I) could also be readily obtained by the application of the Conrad and Limpach method: the crude anil from aniline and ethyl benzoylacetoacetate (prepared by using a trace of hydrochloric acid as a catalyst) cyclises to (I) in good yields by heating in diphenyl ether. This observation confirms also its constitution suggested by Desai and Shah.¹ In this reaction an isomeric product found identical with 4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-benzoylquinoline² (II) obtained by Thakor and Shah² by Friedel-Crafts benzoylation of 4-hydroxy-2-methylquinoline, is also formed in small quantities.

It is interesting to note that in the above condensation with aniline, C-benzoyl ethyl acetoacetate gives good yields of (I) and (II); as with ethyl benzoylacetoacetate only poor yields of the corresponding quinolines are obtained,^{3,4} although ethyl acetoacetate itself affords 4-hydroxyquinolines readily.³

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October 27, 1949.

1. Desai and Shah, *J. Indian Chem. Soc.*, 1949, **26**, 121. 2. Unpublished work. 3. *Ber.*, 1887, **20**, 944, 948; 1888, **21**, 521, 523; Limpach, *ibid.*, 1931, **64B**, 969, 970; 4. Elderfield, *et al.*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1946, **68**, 1212.

ON THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF STRIGA SPECIES

IN his note (*Curr. Sci.*, 1949, **18**) on the caterpillar of *Precis oritya*, Swinhæi L. feeding on *Striga* spp., a parasite of sugarcane and jowar, Mr. D. V. M. refers to Prof. Kumar's report (Kumar, L. S. S., 1939) on a certain caterpillar feeding on *Striga*

densiflora. Presumably Prof. Kumar recommended this caterpillar for the eradication of *Striga*. Early in 1935 the author² encountered a similar case of attack of *Striga Lutea* (Lour) occurring on the hill paddy in Malabar, by the grubs of a beetle identified as belonging to Galerucine sub-family by the Government Entomologist, Coimbatore. The grubs were found to be highly predatory on *Striga* sparing no parts of it, including the stem, leaves and the pods. Large-scale rearing of this beetle for the biological control of *Striga* in infested rice fields was suggested by the author. Agri. Res. Institute, P. UTTAMAN, Coimbatore, October 10, 1949.

1. Kumar, L. S. S., "Report, regarding his visit to H. E. H. the Nizam's Dominions to enquire into the attack of the parasitic flowering plant *Striga* on sugarcane and jowar (unpublished), 1939. 2. Uttaman, P., "Parasitism of *Striga lutea* (Lour) on Rice with special reference to its histology and anatomy" Thesis for M.Sc. of the Madras University.

MOUND-FORMING TERMITES AND THEIR CONTROL

DURING our investigation on white-ants and mound-forming termites, the following interesting observations have been recorded:

A mound is 'live', if repairs are done immediately on breaking open one of the 'towers'.

By placing a powerful magnetic compass at the centre of a mound, it is possible to locate the position of the 'Queen'. The 'Queen' invariably lies nearly parallel to the magnetic N and S in her cell which is on the NE or in a very few cases SW of the central point of the 'live' mound.

The 'fungus gardens' differed in different mounds not only in construction but