

important part as it was noticed in the case of Eucalyptus. The seeds were put on the tree after making a slight incision in the bark in the beginning of March. They started germinating, but the tree completely shed its bark from top to bottom in the end of the month. Consequently the seeds were thrown off.

It was also noticed that seeds which were put on the western side of the stem in most cases did not survive the hot winds blowing from west to east, while a marked difference was noticed in the seeds on the eastern side which got some protection from these scorching winds.

From the long list given by Fischer,³ one can see the heterogeneous types of hosts. One is forced to conclude the laxity of this parasite in selecting its hosts, which are again governed by other factors, e.g., climatic and chance.

The following hosts of *Loranthus longiflorus*, Desr. have been recorded in Patna so far. The first 15, to my knowledge, have not been recorded so far. Mango and Shisham seem to be very badly infested with this parasite. *Aegle Marmelos* and *Terminalia Catappa* have been reported as host plants of *Loranthus* from the Royal Botanical Garden in Calcutta by Scott, but the species of the parasite is not mentioned. Similarly, *Rosa* species is reported from Ootacamund Botanic Gardens by Biddie without the specific parasite.

Thanks are due to Prof. S. S. Choudhury for drawing my attention to the parasite on *Sesbania aegyptica*, var. *bicolor* in the College Botanical Garden.

(1) *Aegle Marmelos*, (2) *Ficus infectoria*, (3) *Swietenia macrophylla*, (4) *Cassia fistula*, (5) *Thevitia neirifolia*, (6) *Sesbania aegyptica*, var. *bicolor*, (7) *Morus indica*, (8) *Codiaeum variegatum*... 'Croton', (9) *Grevillea robusta*, (10) *Cordia myxa*, (11) *Terminalia Catappa*, (12) *Cedrela Toona*, (13) *Rosa* sp., (14) *Bauhinia variegata*, (15) *Premna mucronata*, (16) *Wrightia tomentosa*, (17) *Mangifera indica*, (18) *Melia azedarach*, (19) *Psidium guayava*, (20) *Ficus religiosa*, (21) *Dalbergia sisso*, (22) *Albizzia labbek*, (23) *Callistemon linearis*, (24) *Casuarina equisetifolia*, (25) *Acacia auriculæformis*, (26) *Tectona grandis*, (27) *Bombax malabaricum*, (28) *Punica granatum*, (29) *Pongamia glabra*.

From the list given above one can easily see that a large number of these hosts have not yet been recorded. Nos. 16 to 29 have been found to occur here, but they have been

recorded by various observers at other places in India.

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Biology Department,
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Patna, Bihar,
May 14, 1936.

¹ Srivastava, G. D., *Curr. Sci.*, 1935, 4, 106.

² Sayeed-uddin and Salam, *Curr. Sci.*, 1935, 4, 162.

³ Fischer, C. E. C., *Rec. Bot. Survey of India*, 1926, 11, No. 1.

⁴ Haines, H. H., *Bot. of B. & O.*, Part V, 119.

English as the Common Language.

ONLY recently have I seen your article "English as the Common Language of India" in the November 1935 issue of your *Journal*¹ and note that in it there is no reference to the general question of an International auxiliary language.

Many individuals and institutions have given much thought to this problem, but most agree that a so-called natural language is out of the question.

Amongst the activities in this field in English-speaking countries the following may be mentioned.

The American Philosophical Society appointed a Committee whose report was published in their *Proceedings*² and reproduced in *Nature*.³

A British Association Committee submitted a report published in 1921 (*B. A. Report*, pp. 390-407) and stated "an invented language is best. Esperanto and Ido are suitable: but the Committee is not prepared to decide between the two".

In 1918 the (British) Prime Minister's Committee on Modern Languages recommended... that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the potentialities of artificial languages and of the desirability of encouraging the development and use of one (quoted in *B. A. Report* referred to above).

The International Auxiliary Language Association founded some years ago in New York is still carrying on research work.

'*Nature*' has more than once voiced the desirability of such a language. In its number for October 16, 1926,⁴ it states that "of the artificial languages now current, only Esperanto, its off-shoot Ido and Interlingua (Latin without inflexions) are of serious importance". To these perhaps may be added now "Novial" of Prof. Jespersen. Latin with inflexions is supported in Germany by "Societas latina"; in the U. S. by Prof.

Roland G. Kent of the University of Pennsylvania and by others.

About Interlingua Prof. F. G. Donnan, in his lecture at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, published in its *Proceedings*,⁵ states: "the man who has defined most clearly the Neo-Latin principle and who has not only worked the hardest in this field, but also grouped and organised many isolated workers of kindred views and affiliations is (the late) Dr. G. Peano.... Following the indication given by Leibniz, Peano built on an exclusive Neo-Latin basis so far as the main vocabulary is concerned, though modern words acquiring international usage may be accepted. Partly as the result of Leibniz's views, and partly on the basis of his own reasoning, he has eliminated from grammar formal gender, declension, number and even conjugation of the verb. . . the result is his Latino sine flexione" or Interlingua. According to the statement of Prof. J. L. Gerig of Columbia University, New York, Interlingua is the only one (of the International languages) that is making any real headway (*Americana Annual*, 1933: art. Philology).

Of all countries it would seem that India with so many very important vernaculars should have a large number of people interested in the problem of an International auxiliary language. In connection with the use of English there is a very interesting article by Kilne O. Moe in *Mid-Pacific Magazine*⁶; in it is stated that the "Filipino English is in a class by itself. . . evolved but of many painful attempts to find a common medium". The author asks the question "Will the English language survive in the Philippines?" and the answer is not an unqualified yes.

Information about Interlingua may be had from Prof. N. Mastropaolo, Editor of *Schola et vita*,* organ of the Academia pro-Interlingua, which is carrying on its work from the time of Volapuk. It may be added that a very extensive Interlingua-English and English-Interlingua vocabulary, larger perhaps than any of the other International

languages, is very nearly completed, and it is hoped to find funds for its printing.

A. FANTI.

c/o National Bureau of Standards,
Washington, D. C., U.S.A.,
May 10, 1936.

¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1935, 4, 296.

² 1888, 25.

³ *Nature*, 38, 351-355.

⁴ *Nature*, 1926, 118, 543.

⁵ 1920-22, 23, 546.

⁶ *Mid-Pacific Magazine* for Jan.-March, 1936, pp. 28-31.

* Address of "Schola et vita": Viale Berengario, 19, Milano, Italy.

A Preliminary Survey of Marine Boring Organisms in Cochin Harbour.—A Correction.

LAST October I sent some specimens of Sphæromidæ to the British Museum for identification, which were determined as *Sphæroma terebrans* Bate and *S. annandalei* Stebbing by Dr. I. Gordon, tentatively. Some of the material was sent to Dr. Monod of Paris, who is the chief authority in this group of Isopods. I have recently received a report of Dr. Monod's identifications which necessitate a correction in my paper on Marine Børers in Cochin Harbour.¹

Dr. Monod is of opinion that the material must be referred to *Sphæroma vastator* Sp. Bate. He would retain *S. vastator* as distinct from *S. terebrans*, the former an Indian Ocean (and probably South African), the other an Atlantic, form. He also says, moreover, that as to *S. annandalei* he cannot see how it differs from *S. vastator*²; and would find it exceedingly difficult to separate the two.

EILEEN WHITEHEAD ERLANSON.

Madras,
June 9, 1936.

¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1936, 4, 726-732.

² Extract from a personal communication from Dr. Gordon.