On Sunday, the 28th February 1937 at 10 A.M., the writer observed several swarms of a Cecidomyid in the vicinity of the Entomological Laboratory, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. There were thousands of small black midges in each swarm which was therefore fairly thick and cast a shadow on the ground. The swarms disappeared at about 4 P.M. The swarms continued to appear every day in the laboratory compound upto about the 7th of March in the morning and disappeared in the afternoon. Evidently, the species swarmed when it was bright sunshine. The midges showed swift circling and backward and forward movements, and therefore from a distance it appeared as if the swarms were almost stationary. Sometimes quite a large number of midges of a swarm would alight on plants or on the ground and after a short time would again join the swarm. But as a rule the swarms were not seen settling on either cultivated or wild plants or elsewhere near or away from the place at which they appeared.

A large number of specimens were collected and sent to a specialist for exact identification. They have been declared to belong to a species new to science, which is being described as such (*Micromyia indica* sp. nov.) elsewhere.

H. L. BHATIA.

Laboratory of the Imperial Entomologist, New Delhi,
August 3, 1937.

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[1] *J. South-Eastern Agric. Coll. Wye*, **24**, 80.

[2] *Lunds Univ. Arsskr.*, **30**, 70. Abstract in *Rev. Appl. ent.* ser. A. **24**, 348.

On Two Hyperparasites of Lac.

THE only way of indicating the importance of parasites among themselves is by giving a table of statistical records of such insect-findings. As far as I am aware, a quantitative analysis of frequency among parasites and hyperparasites of lac has not been studied. But I have found even qualitative or wide differences in the degree of association between lac insect and its associated parasites and hyperparasites not only according to the season and locality but also according to the species of lac insect.

The observations in Bangalore indicated that *Holcocera pulverea* is not predacious on *Lakshadia communis*. It is, however, very frequently found attacking the other lac insect, *Lakshadia mysorensis*, while, at the same time, *Holcocera* caterpillars are perhaps more parasitised in association with the Mysore lac insect than with any other of its kind. The species *Lakshadia mysorensis* therefore gives an excellent insight into the association of *Holcocera* with its own parasites. *Apanteles tachardiæ* came in the first rank, while *Apanteles fakhrulhajiæ* was its next most effective parasite. This was found also to hold true in studying the insect fauna associated with *Lakshadia nagoliensis* in Sohagpur, Central Provinces.

In Bangalore, *Chelonus cycloporus*, Franz,[1] is rare or unknown, but occupies the third place in descending order of importance in Sohagpur. It is surprising this insect has not been recorded by any other worker on lac. Fig. 1 shows the female *Chelonus cycloporus* and the illustration may now help others to confirm my findings.

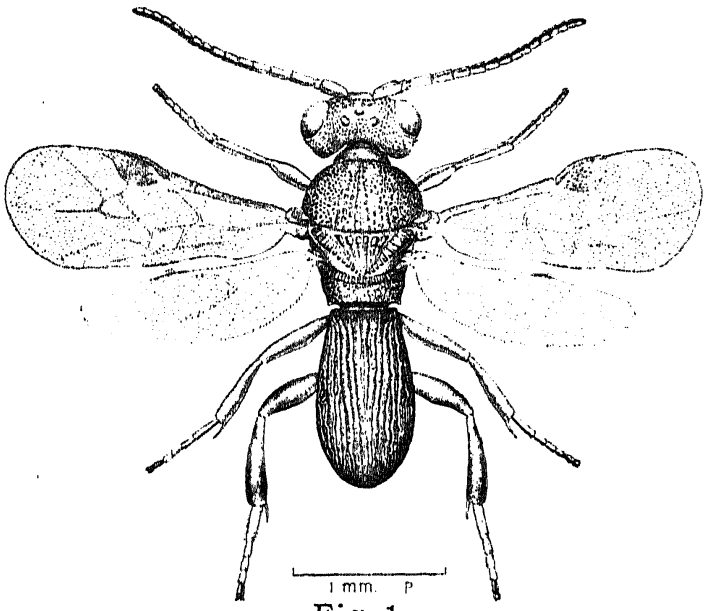

Fig. 1.

Female *Chelonus cycloporus*, Franz.

Young[2] records rearing an Ichneumon from lac and possibly the same species was illustrated by Stebbing,[3] as I have already tried to explain.[4] Stebbing illustrated a male Ichneumon, while Fig. 2 here records the female of the same insect. It is strange Stebbing's finding has not attracted any comment from any other writer on lac. I identified my specimen as *Pristomerus* and as I found no other insect of this genus it must be identical with *Pristomerus testaceicollis*, Cam., which, according to Glover,[5]

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