

Sudan grass crosses readily with cultivated sorghums. Both have their chromosome number $2n = 20$. Both flower predominantly before sunrise. Sudan grass has thus affinities to cultivated sorghums in anthesis also. How far domestication in arid regions has brought about this pre-day flowering and how much further selection for compactness in the head has pushed the anthesis to very near midnight raises interesting problems which can be solved only after intensive observations on a wide range of sorghum material.

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¹ *Jour. Agric. Res.*, 1932, **44**, 317-21.

² *California Agric. Dept. Farmers' Bull.*, 1917, **126**.

³ *Indian Jour. Agric. Sci.*, 1931, **1**, 445-454.

⁴ Snowden, *The Cultivated Races of Sorghum*, 1936.

The Kashmir and Rajputana Lac Insect.

E. J. PARRY'S Book on Shellac (Pitman, 1935), which came only recently into my hands, gives an excellent review of the work done at the Lac Research Institute, Ranchi, India, ignoring, unfortunately similar work done at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, initiated by Prof. G. J. Fowler long before the foundation of the Ranchi Institute. Parry quotes and endorses a criticism of my views by Howlett, believing it impossible for the lac insect to feed on gums. This probability was long ago confirmed by a study of the symbiotic fungus from lac by Srinivasaya and myself¹ while a reply to Howlett's other criticisms has recently appeared in the *Zeit. f. ang. Entom.* (July 1936, **23**). The Report on Lac² which contains only scathing references to my work further ignores that it was I who had sent brood lac to Howlett confirming a statement that there is a distinct species of lac insect in Mysore with three life-cycles a year.³

I still maintain that there are some half-a-dozen lac insects in India one of

which is *Lakshadia fici*, described by Green. I recognised the existence of this species⁴ while Chamberlin's Monograph,⁵ appearing shortly afterwards, independently acknowledged the same. The lac insect of Kashmir growing there on *Acacia catechu*, was first identified by me as *Lakshadia fici* and appears to be the only statement to this effect,⁶ while the numerous publications from Pusa and from Ranchi, to which alone Parry has referred, do not inform him of the specific nature of the Kashmir lac insect.

No writer on lac has so far mentioned that it was Lt.-Col. Adams⁷ who says for the first time "Some (larvæ) are brilliant red, while others were yellow". I identified the Rajputana insect also as *Lakshadia fici*, whereas, Negi, of the Ranchi Institute, who even illustrates this insect⁸ completely ignores its specific identity.

The following questions now press for solution. Is the insect named *L. fici* so rare that no one has been able to come across it again, it being particularly remembered that lac insects may be had in pounds if not even in hundredweights? Is the insect in Kashmir and Rajputana identical with each other and is it only a variety of the other lac insect commonly found in India so that a specific designation as given by Green is not justifiable? On the contrary if *L. fici* represents a distinct species then there are other insects, e.g., *Lakshadia mysorensis*, likewise distinct, which require similar scientific designations.

Finally, I may add that in the article on Nomenclature of Lac Insects,⁹ I have explained how the generic name *Lakshadia* has claims of priority over *Laccifer*.

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¹ *J. Ind. Inst. Sci.*, 1929, **12A**, Pt. 6.

² *Ind. Forest Rec.*, 1921, **8**, Pt. 1.

³ *Curr. Sci.*, 1934, **3**, 60.

⁴ *J. Sci. Assoc. Vizianagaram*, 1923, **1**.

⁵ *Bull. Ent. Res.*, 1923, **14**.

⁶ *J. Sci. Assoc. Vizianagaram*, 1925, **2**, 65.

⁷ *The Western Rajputana States*, London, 1899, with a Chapter on Lac.

⁸ *Bull. Ent. Res.*, 1929, **19**, Pt. 4, Pl. 16.

⁹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1935, **3**, 365.