A New Record of Arthropod Predators in Groundnut at Anand (India)

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Groundnut is grown in large area during summer in Gujarat. It suffers from American bollworm, *Helicoverpa (Heliothis) armigera* Hubner, jassid, *Empoasca kerri* Pruthi, thrip, *Caliothrips indicus,* tobacco caterpillar, *Spodoptera litura* Fab., during April to May. While surveying the natural enemies of the above pests, the authors came across two species of Lygaeid predators, *Geocoris ochropterus* Fieber *G. jucundus* Fabr. hitherto not recorded from Gujarat. *G. ochropterus* abunduntly seen than *G. jucundus* with population of the former about 25 adults/25 plants and of the latter 6 adults/25 plants. Both the predators were seen feeding on the nymphs and adults of Groundnut aphid, *Aphis craccivora* Koch., nymphs of *E. kerri* and on the eggs of *H. armigera* and *S. exigua.* Presence of eggs, nymphs and adults in the crop indicated that their occurrence was not incidental. The predatory bugs were also found associated with crops like cotton, maize and mungbean during the same period. *G. ochropterus* and *G. jucundus* were earlier reported as predators of cotton jassids from Delhi (Subba Rao *et. al.,* 1965). Abundance of *G. ochropterus* was reported on groundnut and on an annual weed *Achyranthes aspera* from Madras where it was found to feed on *Caliothrips indicus, Ayyaria chaetophora,* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis.* (Kumar and Ananthakrishnan, 1985). Detailed studies on *G. ochropterus* are under way.

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