

Autoserica nathani Frey, New Record of a Species of White Grub from Gujarat

R. C. Patel, B. S. Patel and B. R. Parmar

Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand Campus,
Anand

During May 1979, the district extension workers reported that summer groundnut crop was infested by white grubs. Groundnut fields in Kapadwanj taluka were therefore surveyed to collect the grubs. These were reared further in the laboratory to obtain the adults which were identified as *Autoserica nathani* Frey by Dr. Veeresh. Similar grubs were also collected and reared from wheat in February 1979 and from summer bajra in May. The grub in the last instar is similar in size to the early second instar of *Holotrichia consanguinea* Bl. which is important species of white grub in this area. The farmers therefore mistook the infestation as that of *H. consanguinea*. The adults of this species were also collected in large numbers in the light traps arranged in Kapadwanj taluka in June 1979. The survey in sum-

mer groundnut crop indicated 1.5 grubs per plant. The infestation in bajra and wheat was rather sporadic. The grub was also observed to feed on the roots of castor, maize, mustard, sweet potato, fennel, brinjal etc. during the *rabi* season. Thus, the insect is polyphagous and has been collected from north and middle Gujarat during 1979 and 1980. This species has also been reported infesting groundnut, sugarcane and wheat from other parts of India (Singh and Singh 1978; Paras Nath and Janardan Singh, 1980 and Veeresh, 1980).

(Received on October 29, 1980)

REFERENCES

- Paras Nath and Janardan Singh. 1980. Record of white grubs in sugarcane, groundnut and wheat fields located in Mirzapur and Varanasi districts of U.P. *White grub News Letter-3* (1-4) : 3.
- Singh, J. and Singh, C. N. 1978. Studies on the root grubs associated with sugarcane and groundnut in Mirzapur district (U.P.) *News Letter-Soil biology and Ecology* 1 (2) : 1-3.
- Veeresh, G. K. 1980 Recent findings on the bioecology of white grubs. *White grub News Letter-3* (1-4).