Occurence of *Cephaleta brunniventris* Mostschusky (Pteromalidae : Hymenoptera) ; A Parasite on Brown Scale, *Saissetia coffeae* Walker Infesting Pointed Gourd in Anand Area of Gujarat

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The brown scale, *Saissetia coffeae* Walker (Homoptera ; coccidae) is one of the important pest of pointed gourd (Parwal). During the survey for seasonal abundance of the pest, some scales were found with small holes. When nature scale were discected in the laboratory, small larvae and puparia were found in some of the scales indicating the presence of the parasite in them. The parasite was reared from the field collected scales and was identified as *Cephaleta brunniventris* Mostchusky (petromalidae : Hymenoptera).

To study the effectiveness of the parasite to regulate the pest population and its seasonal abundance, the parasite was reared from the scale in the laboratory throughout the period of occurance of the scale during 1984. For this purpose, pointed gourd leaves bearing nature females were brought in the laboratory at weekly intervals starting from the first week of May 1984 to the fourth week of November 1984. The leaves were kept separately in closed petri dishes after counting the number of females on each leaf. Observations were recorded daily in the morning on the number of adult parasites that emerged in each petri dish. Generally only one parasite was observed to emerge from each scale but for an occassional instance two parasites were noted to emerge.

The parasite was active almost throughout the period of study. The rate of parasitism varied from 5.03 to 32.25 per cent during the period of study. Although this rate of parasitism could not keep the scale under check, its significance in natural control can not be under estimation. This is the first record of parasite *C. brinniventris on S. coffeae* from this area.

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