

A Record of Ber Fruit Weevil, *Aubeus himalayanus* Voss (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) from Karnataka

The ber orchard (Variety - Umran) established in the Regional Research Station, Bijapur, Karnataka showed some abnormal fruits during July-August months of 1993 and 1994, which were attacked by the ber fruit weevil, *Aubeus himalayanus* Voss. The percentage of such fruits ranged from 5-10 during both the years. These infested fruits were round in shape and varied in size ranging from pea to pebble. They had abnormally enlarged calyx and adhered to the fruit in such a way that nearly half portion of the fruit towards petiole turned to reddish brown with rough surface and the remaining half (or little more) portion towards the navel region with greenish colour. The fruits did not attain maturity and never increased in size more than pebble. This is because of the fact that the pest fed only on the seed portion of developing fruit arresting further development

of attacked fruits. When such fruits were cut open, the developing seed was completely eaten away by the pest. In the hollowed out areas, each of these fruits had either a grub, a pupa or an adult. The absence of entry hole and other external symptoms suggest that the egg laying is done during flowering stage itself.

This insect has been recorded as a pest of ber for the first time from Karnataka.

This insect was originally described by Voss (1944) from a collection of insects from Himalayan region of Kulu, at about 3600 ft. above MSL in India. However, there was no mention about its host. But, Gour and Sriramulu (1994) recorded this insect occurring as a new pest of *Ziziphus* from Andhra Pradesh which was the first report from India.

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References

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