NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT OF *TRYPANOPHORA SEMIHYALINA* KOLLAR [1844] (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAENIDAE: CHALCOSINAE) FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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Introduction

Trypanophora semihyalina Kollar, [1844] (Zygaenidae: Chalcosiinae) occurs in South and Southeast Asia. In India it is reported from Southwest India to N.W. India and in N.E. India (Ahmed *et al.*, 2015). According to Robinson *et al.* (2010), the known larval host plants of *T. semihyalina* are *Barringtonia acutangula* (Lecythidaceae), *Carissa carandas*, *Holarrhena sp.* (Apocynaceae), *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Lythraceae), *Ricinus communis* (Euphorbiaceae), *Shorea robusta* (Dipterocarpaceae), *Terminalia catappa*, *Terminalia tomentosa* (Combretaceae), *Bombax ceiba* (Malvaceae), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Rhamnaceae), *Gardenia* sp. (Rubiaceae), *Rosa* sp. (Rosaceae). This moth is also reported as a defoliator of *Gmelina arborea* (Meshram & Garg, 2000). From southern West Bengal, it has also been reported as a pest of *Mangifera indica* (Anacardiaceae) (Jha & Paul, 2002).

Observation

On 4.iii.2020, one final instar caterpillar of *T. semihayalina* was observed feeding on the leaves of guava (*Psidium guajava*) (Fig. 1) at the author's garden, near Bara Solemanpur Village (21°40'19.08"N, 87°34'29.75"E, 7 m a.s.l.) of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal, India. The next day, two larvae were also observed feeding on guava leaves next to the previous plant. One larva was taken for rearing from the guava plant, but unfortunately the pupa it formed was damaged by ants. Later, between March, 2020 and July, 2020, many larvae were observed on *Mangifera indica* (Fig.2) and *Ziziphus jujuba* (Fig.*3) plants* at the same place. A few larvae were collected for rearing and only three females successfully emerged (Fig. 6). The larvae are dark chocolaty brown with lateral side of four posterior segments yellow. The pupa is enclosed in a whitish pale red cocoon (Fig. 5). The larvae were actively feeding during day time in nature as well in captivity. Like most Chalcosiinae, the larvae of *T. semihyalina* also display chemical defense (Fig. 4). They release droplets containing poisonous chemicals from the cuticle in response to physical irritation/disturbance and re-absorbed the droplets quickly when the irritation stopped. *Psidium guajava* is a well-known fruit plant of Myrtaceae family, widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Hitherto, available records show no plants were reported under Myrtaceae as larval host plants of *T. semihyalina*. Therefore, *Psidium guajava* is being reported here as a new larval host plant of *T. semihyalina* from India.

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References

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Fig.1: Final instar caterpillar of *Trypanophora semihyalina* feeding on *Psidium guajava* leaf.

Fig.2: Final instar caterpillar feeding on *Mangifera indica* leaf

Fig.3: Final instar caterpillar feeding on *Ziziphus jujuba* leaf.

Fig.4: Final instar caterpillar releases defensive droplets in response to disturbance

Fig.5: Cocoon

Fig.6: Newly emerged female *T. semihyalina*