

NEW RECORD OF *ILLEIS INDICA* TIMBERLAKE, 1943 (COLEOPTERA: COCCINELLIDAE) FROM ODISHA, INDIA

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Obligate biotrophic fungi of Erysiphaceae (Ascomycota: Erysiphales), commonly called powdery mildews are one of the most destructive pathogens with a wide range of host plant species (Glawe, 2008). Economic losses due to powdery mildew infection have been reported in various crops belonging to the families Asteraceae, Cucurbitaceae, Leguminaceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae and Verbenaceae, besides many cereals and fruit trees (English-Loeb *et al.*, 1999; Khodaparast & Abbasi, 2009). The management of the disease typically involves application of fungicides on a regular basis. But a high rate of asexual sporulation by *Erysiphe cichoracearum* (DC., 1805) leads to the development of resistance by this pathogen to benzimidazoles, sterols inhibitors, demethylation inhibitor (DMI) and strobilurins in both laboratory and field experiments (Gubler *et al.*, 1996; Del Pino *et al.*, 1999; Heaney *et al.*, 2000; McGrath, 2001). Due to the above problems, biological control of powdery mildew may offer a solution to the resistance phenomenon and affect the target organism only. There are several biological control agents which include microbial, bacterial (*Bacillus subtilis* Ehrenberg, 1835) and fungal hyperparasites (*Ampelomyces quisqualis* Ces. 1852). Also, numerous species of coccinellids are predators of hemipteran pests such as mealybugs, aphids and scale insects, as well as thrips and mites in all parts of the world (Majerus, 1994). Although majority of coccinellids are predators of other arthropods, not all are

purely entomophagous insects. Phytophagy within the Epilachninae and mycophagy (both facultative and obligative), within the Coccinellinae have evolved from a common coccidophagous ancestor (Giorgi *et al.*, 2009; Lundgren, 2009). All members of the Psylloborini Casey (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) are obligate feeders of various powdery mildew conidia and hyphae at all life stages. The cosmopolitan distribution of *Psyllobora* and their wide host range (Sutherland & Parrella, 2009; Joshi & Sharma, 2008) may suggest their importance in natural control of the powdery mildews. During a study of pest status of *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. in the campus of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar (20.265816N and 85.810387E) on November 16, 2018, a species of mycophagous beetle was observed feeding on the powdery surface of the *L. speciosa* leaves. The yellow lady bird beetle was collected in vials along with its larva. It was identified as *Illeis indica* Timberlake, 1943 (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) by Dr. J. Poorani (Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore, India). Its earlier known distribution was from Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan and Thailand (Poorani, 2012). Here, it is reported for the first time from peninsular India. The powdery fungus on the leaves of *L. speciosa* was not identified.

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Fig. 1&2: *Illeis indica* Timberlake