

The findings raise the possibility that radiation induction of locule number in *C. annuum* is possible and if used in conjunction with other genetic and cultural techniques could prove to be of practical significance.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance (to K. Subhash) of University Grants Commission for the Research.

Botany Department,
Osmania University,
Post-Graduate Centre,
Warangal 506001,

K. SUBHASH.

and
Department of Botany,
Osmania University,
Hyderabad 500007, June 10, 1974.

J. NIZAM.

1. Bhatia, C. R. and Swaminathan, M. S., *Teist. fur Pflanzenzucht.*, 1962, 48, 314.

**CYANEOLYTIA ACTEON (LAPORTE)
(COLEOPTERA: MELOIDAE) A NEW PEST
OF MAIZE AND BAJRA**

In village Jaitpur (near Hoshiarpur, Punjab) maize and bajra (*Pennisetum typhoides*) leaves were noticed being eaten by a beetle which was later identified as *Cyaneolytta acteon* (Laporte) with the



assistance of the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The density of 52 beetles in 4 square meter area was quite high and the damage was noticeable. Two pairs of beetles when given 10-day old maize and bajra plants in the laboratory ate them up in 21.8 and 18.0 hours respectively, indicating that they are voracious feeders.

Some preliminary observations on the biology of this pest were made. In the last week of June (1972) the adults were seen mating in the field and this act lasted 3-4 minutes. The males of this shining black beetle were 24 mm long and carried one bright red spot on each of the elytron whereas the female was 30 mm long having two spots on either side. The females were observed to lay elongated yellowish eggs in clusters on the soil surface or on the upper side of maize or bajra leaves. A female on an average laid 123 eggs. The egg stage lasted 2.6 days in July and 87% of them were viable. The newly hatched triungulins were very active to start with and lived for 4.9 days without feeding either on leaves or roots of the host plants. As to how the pest survives in the immature stages under field conditions needs to be studied.

This appears to be the first record of the insect as a pest of maize and bajra in India. Fletcher (1921) has reported it as occurring on grass, lucerne, rice, *Setaria* and *Panicum miliaceum* at Pusa and also the occurrence of the blister beetles *Lytta tenuicollis* Pall., *L. picta* Cast. and *L. ruficollis* Oliv. on bajra. In Karnataka State it has been noticed to infest rice, sorghum and *Eleusine coracana* (Usman and Puttarudraiah, 1955).

College of Agriculture,
Punjab Agricultural Univ.,
Ludhiana, June 10, 1974.

J. S. DHALIWAL,
BALRAJ SINGH,
A. S. ATWAL.

1. Fletcher, T. B., *Agric. Res. Inst. Pusa Bull.*, No. 100, 1921, p. 1.
2. Usman, S. and Puttarudraiah, M., *Entomology Series, Bull. No. 16*, Dept. Agric., Mysore State, 1955, p. 102.

**A NEW SPECIES OF ACROSTAPHYLUS FROM
PHYLLOSPHERE OF BRASSICA JUNCEA**

THE genus *Nodulisporium* Preuss, widely recognized as the *status conidialis* of Xylariaceae, was erected for two moniliaceous fungi, *N. album* Preuss and *N. ochraceum* Preuss. Since then a number of other species of this genus have been described^{1-8, 11, 12}. Arnaud¹ erected the new genus *Acrostaphylus* Arnaud for *Nodulisporium* like dematiaceous fungi. On this basis, Subramanian⁹ recommended that the name *Nodulisporium* be exclusively used for moniliaceous and *Acrostaphylus* for dematiaceous types. Rogers⁵ on the basis of conidiophore and conidial colour differences influenced by age, environment, etc., chose not to assign the conidial *Hypoxylon fuscum* Pers. ex Fr. to either genera.

This paper describes a new species of *Acrostaphylus*, *A. ornatus*, referred to this genus on the basis of its dematiaceous appearance. The fungus