Grateful thanks are extended to Prof. G. S. Shukla, and to Dr. G. J. Srivastava, Department of Zoology, University of Gorakhpur (India), for their encouragement and to Dr. M. H. Ansari for the facilities.

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NEW RECORD OF *TRICHOGRAMMATOIDEA BACTRAE* NAGARAJA (HYM. : TRICHOGRAMMATIDAE) AS AN EGG PARASITE OF THE CASTOR SEMILOOPER *ACHAEA JANATA* (LEP : NOCTUIDAE)

THE semilooper, *Achaea janata* L. is a severe pest of castor. When the incidence of this pest was noticed during August–September 1979, at the Agricultural College Farm, Dharwad, daily collections of immature stages of the pest were made at random from plots free from insecticide treatment with a view to observe different species of natural enemies present in the area. A species of Trichogrammatid identified as *Trichogrammatoidea bactrae* Nagaraja was reared from the eggs of *A. janata*. Nagaraja[1], while describing *T bactrae* gives fourteen lepidopterous species which include ten species from India and one each from Java, Malaysia, Pakistan and Taiwan as its host. So far there is no record of *T. bactrae* on *A. janata* and therefore it is being reported here for the first time. Percentage of parasitization of *T. bactrae* in the field ranged from 9·1 to 14·7 during the period of observation. In the laboratory, culture of this parasite could be easily built up on the eggs of *Corcyra cephalonica* Staint. It was found to readily accept the eggs of *Heliothis armigera* (Hubner) and *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) also under laboratory conditions. Duration of a life cycle in these three hosts ranged from 9 to 11 days. Possibilities of utilising this parasite in the biological control of castor semilooper and cotton bollworms are being explored.

The authors are grateful to Dr. T. Sankaran, Entomologist-in-charge, Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Indian Station, Bangalore, for arranging the identification of the parasite.

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CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BOMBAY

The Cancer Research Institute, Bombay, will conduct a training course on Tumour Immunology from January 27 to February 14, 1981. Application forms and further particulars can be had from the Administrative Officer of the Institute either in person or by sending a self-addressed 45 Paise stamped 23 cm × 10 cm envelope by 31st October, 1980. Applications duly sponsored and completed in all respects should reach the Institute by 15th November, 1980 at the latest.

SEMINAR AT CENTRAL SALT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BHAVNAGAR

A two-day Seminar on Exploitation of Sun Sea and Shore—Retrospect and Prospect will be held at Central Salt Research Institute, Bhavnagar, India, on 30th and 31st December 1980. It is also proposed on this occasion to felicitate Dr. J. D. Mehta (present Director of C.S. and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar) who will be retiring by the end of this year. For details please contact Shri K. D. Padia, Member Secretary of the Seminar, Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Waghawadi Road, Bhavnagar 364 002.