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A NOTE ON CHIMERA IN GUAVA (*PSIDIUM GUAJAVA* L.)

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CHIMERAS are of importance in some of the horticultural crops. When a shoot arises with some mutated and some non-mutated cells it is known as Chimera. The stability of Chimeras varies with the kind, depending on the position of the mutated and non-mutated cells of the portion. The existence of chimeral plants has long been recognized in citrus. Chimeral conditions are particularly evident in leaves and fruits. The chimeral appearance in citrus leaf and fruit has been reported by Janick and Moore, where the leaf pattern indicated patches of yellow and green colour. However, fruits have a thin, whitish rind with irregular narrow longitudinal green stripes.

In a clonal population of 128 plants of Guava var. Lucknow-49, a chimeral shoot was noticed in a plant during August 1985 at the Horticultural Research Station, Bangalore. The chimeral shoot had several leaves with yellow and green patches. Over a period of observation, the yellow portion of the leaf started drying due to lack of chlorophyll. The immature fruit in the chimeral shoot had a greenish rind colour with pale blue longitudinally running stripes.

So far no incidence of chimeras in guava has been reported. The usefulness of this chimeral shoot is being studied by inducing roots through air-layering in the mutated shoot.

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SUPPRESSION OF WATER HYACINTH BY THE EXOTIC INSECT *NEOCHETINA EICHHORNIAE* IN BANGALORE, INDIA.

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WATER hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), a free-floating plant of South American origin and considered to be one of the world's most serious aquatic weeds¹, infests more than the 200,000 ha of water surface in India². Manual, mechanical and chemical methods of control are expensive and unsatisfactory as repeated applications are needed³. Considering the high growth rate of this weed and its ability to absorb water pollutants, utilization has been proposed as a method of control⁴. However, Gopal⁵ cautioned that instead of bringing down weed population utilization may help promote growth and maintenance of large weed stands.

Neochetina eichhorniae Warner (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), one of the natural enemies identified in surveys conducted in South America, has established after introduction in many countries⁶. A culture of this insect was obtained from USA in 1982. Field releases were started in Bangalore after exhaustive host-specificity tests conducted under quarantine conditions confirmed its safety for field liberation in India⁷.

A 344 ha tank at Bellandur, located near the Bangalore airport, was selected for field releases of *N. eichhorniae*. This tank is fed by sewage effluents which make rich organic nutrients available for the luxuriant growth of water hyacinth. The weeds in turn provide ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes by keeping the water surface placid and rendering it inaccessible to any methods of chemical control. The Bellandur tank has been identified as the major source of mosquito breeding in the Bangalore airport area. For combating the mosquito menace mechanical removal of water hyacinth was recommended and between August 1982 and March 1983 the Bangalore Corporation spent Rs. 3.5 lakhs by deploying 200 daily wage and 419 regular gangmen⁸. Despite these measures more than half the surface area of the above tank was infested by water hyacinth in June-July 1984, when 3650 adults of *N. eichhorniae* were released.

Adults of *N. eichhorniae* scrape and feed on water