

Studies on the predatory hemlpterans In Southern Western Ghats of Tami! Nadu

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Abstracts

The diversity of Reduviid predators were studied in the semi-arid zone. scrub jungle and tropical forest regions of Southern Western Ghats located 1n Tamil Nadu.India. for 12 months extending from September 2021 to August 2022. to identify the dominant 1>reda tor species that exhibits the potential to serve as b1ocontrol agents of

agricultural/forest pests. A total of 590 individuals belonging to seven sub-families, 20 genus and 27 species were recorded from the study region. The number of species recorded 1n scrub jungle was the highest,followed by semi-and zone and tropical ram forest. The predator population was high during winter and summer in semi-arid zone and scrub jungle in comparison with tropical forest.The Shannon-Weiner Index and Simson's index for species recorded in the Scrub jungle were high In companson with other regions The most dominant reduvi1ds were *Rhynocorls fusclpes* (Fab.) followed by *Sycanus recllnatus* Dom, *Acanthapis pedestris* Stal.,*lrantho armlpes* The biology of these predators were also studies under controlled conditions The hfe span of *S reclmatus* was the longest followed by *R fusc1pes* and *lrantha orm1pes.*As studies on the biocontrol potential of the aforementioned species show pos111ve results with regard to control of harmfulinsect pests.they will prove to be valuable If integrated m pest management programmes.

Key words:Reduviidae,Predators. Diversity Indices. Southern Western Ghats.



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