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MYRIAPODS AS THE FOOD OF COMMON GARDEN LIZARD,  
CALOTES VERSICOLOR (DAUDIN)

(With Plate XVI)

Various workers like Smith (1935), Minton (1966), Prakash (1973) and Sharma & Vazirani (1977) have established that the food of Common Garden Lizard comprises insects including their larvae grasshoppers, lepidopterans, beetles, dragon flies, hymenopterans and spiders.

Recently the author had an opportunity to examine the stomach contents of about fifty examples of this lizard collected from Bankura and Purulia districts of West Bengal. It was quite interesting to note that 70% of the stomach contents comprised milipedes of the genus *Proterosperphormage*. A centipede of the genus *Rhysida* was also found in the stomach of one of the lizards. The period from November to December is the posthatching time of myriapods, when there are seen in large numbers of them in damp soil, litters and under grass. The author's observations indicate that during this time *Calotes versicolor* devour mainly the milipedes. One animal nematode was found in the stomach of one of the lizards. The above mentioned food items are new additions to the menu of this most common lizard.

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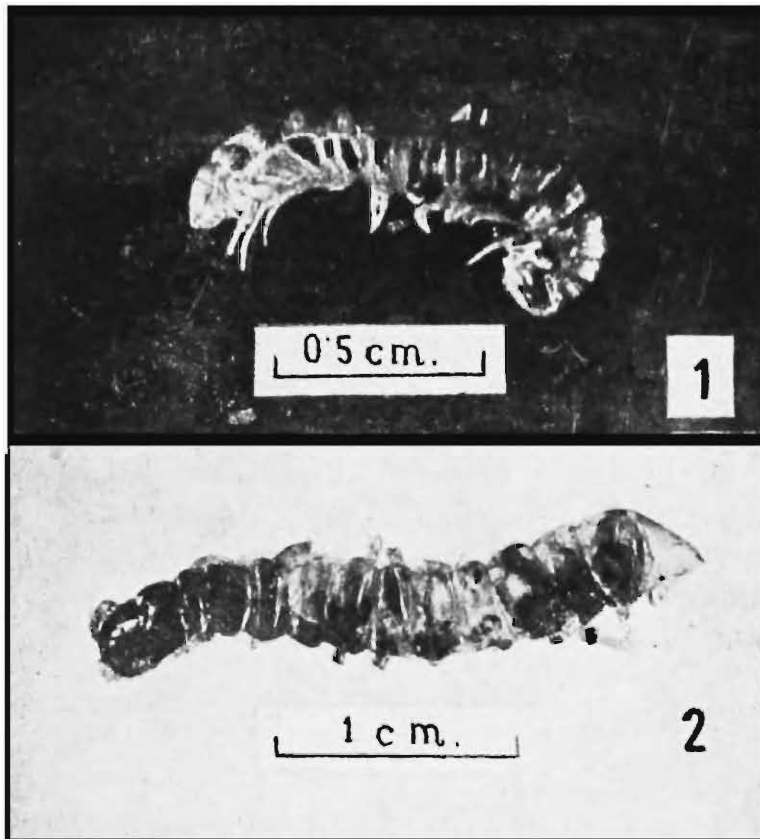
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Text-figs. 1-12, plates 9-36, tables 1-7, maps 1-5.

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PLATE XVI



**Figs. 1-2.** 1. The dorsal view of millipede found in the stomach of a Common Garden Lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)  
2. The centipede (Ventral view) found in the stomach of another specimen of common garden lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)