

ON SOME PSEUDOCOCCIDS FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS  
(HOMOPTERA : PSEUDOCOCCIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION

Although the scale insects and mealy-bugs of the South India (Ayyar, 1930) and Sri Lanka (Green, 1896-1922) have been studied very extensively, there appears to be no previous report on these insects from the Andaman-Nicobar group of islands. While studying the registered collections present in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, the author came across some examples of pseudococcids collected from the Andaman Islands. This paper deals with that small collection, which was brought by Dr. B. S. Lamba of the Zoological Survey of India, during 1964. It may be added that unfortunately no indication about the host-plants is available on accompanying labels and that the specimens are overstained and poorly mounted. However, on the basis of this preliminary study it is hoped that detailed studies would be very rewarding to know the coccid fauna of these islands.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Superfamily COCCOIDEA

Family PSEUDOCOCCIDAE

1. *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green)

1908. *Phenacoccus hirsutus* Green, *Mem. Dep. Agric. India*, **2** (2) : 25.

1930. *Pseudococcus hirsutus* Green : Ayyar, *Bull. Agric. Res. Inst. Pusa*, **197** : 68.

1970. *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) : Williams, *Bull. ent. Res.*, **60** : 149.

1970. *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) : Ali, *Indian Mus. Bull.*, **5** (2) : 86.

*Material*.—One ♀ mounted on a slide ; Andaman : Burmah Nallah (S. A.), 15. iv. 1964, coll. B. S. Lamba. ZSI Regd. No. 353/H 15.

*Remarks*.—This is a widely distributed species, reportedly occurring on numerous host-plants. In India it has earlier been collected from West Bengal and Bihar. However, Williams (1970) has shown that the record of this species on sugarcane in India is doubtful.

The other species of this genus occurring in the Indian region is *M. perforatus* (De Lotto), which is so far recorded from Bihar only.

## 2. *Rastrococcus iceryoides* (Green)

1908. *Phenacoccus iceryoides* Green, *Mem. Dep. Agric. India*, 2 (2) : 26.  
 1922. *Phenacoccus iceryoides* Green : Green, *Coccidae of Ceylon*, 5 : 391.  
 1930. *Phenacoccus iceryoides* Green : Ayyar, *Bull. Agric. Res. Inst. Pusa*, 197 : 62.  
 1958. *Rastrococcus iceryoides* (Green) : Williams, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)*, 6 (8) : 220.  
 1970. *Rastrococcus iceryoides* (Green) : Ali, *Indan Mus. Bull.*, 5 (2) : 98.

*Material*.—Three ♀ ♀ mounted on 3 slides ; Andaman Is. : Cowri ghat, 11. iv. 1964, coll. B. S. Lamba. ZSI Regd. Nos. 354/H 15 to 356/H 15.

*Remarks*.—This species has been earlier recorded from a number of host-plants from India, Sri Lanka and other South East Asian countries. It is more widely distributed than its sister species *R. mangiferae* (Green) which is a pest of mangoes.

On the label of one slide received back from the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, the author's name is wrongly shown as Cockerell. As pointed out above it should be Green.

## 3. *Cataenococcus* sp.

*Material*.—One ♀ on a slide ; Andaman Is. : Cowri ghat, 9. iv. 1964, coll. B. S. Lamba. ZSI Regd. No. 348/H 15.

*Remarks*.—This specimen could not be identified upto species level, because of the non recognition of the taxonomic characters due to poor mounting.

Genus *Cataenococcus* Ferris comprises some of those species which were earlier treated under Genus *Pseudococcus* Westwood. Presently two species are known from the Oriental limits (Ali, 1970), namely *C. hispidus* (Morrison) and *C. theaecola* (Green). Out of these, the former is recorded from South-East Asian countries like Malaysia and Indonesia etc., and the latter from Darjeeling and Assam in India. The latter species is known as a pest on roots of tea plants. In the light of above, the Andaman material may probably belong to *hispidus*, but can not be so placed at this stage without the study of more material from these Islands.

## SUMMARY

Coccids from the Andaman-Nicobar Islands have not been recorded so far. In this paper three species of pseudococcids, viz., *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*, *Rastrococcus iceryoides* and *Cataenococcus* sp., have been reported from the Andaman Islands.

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