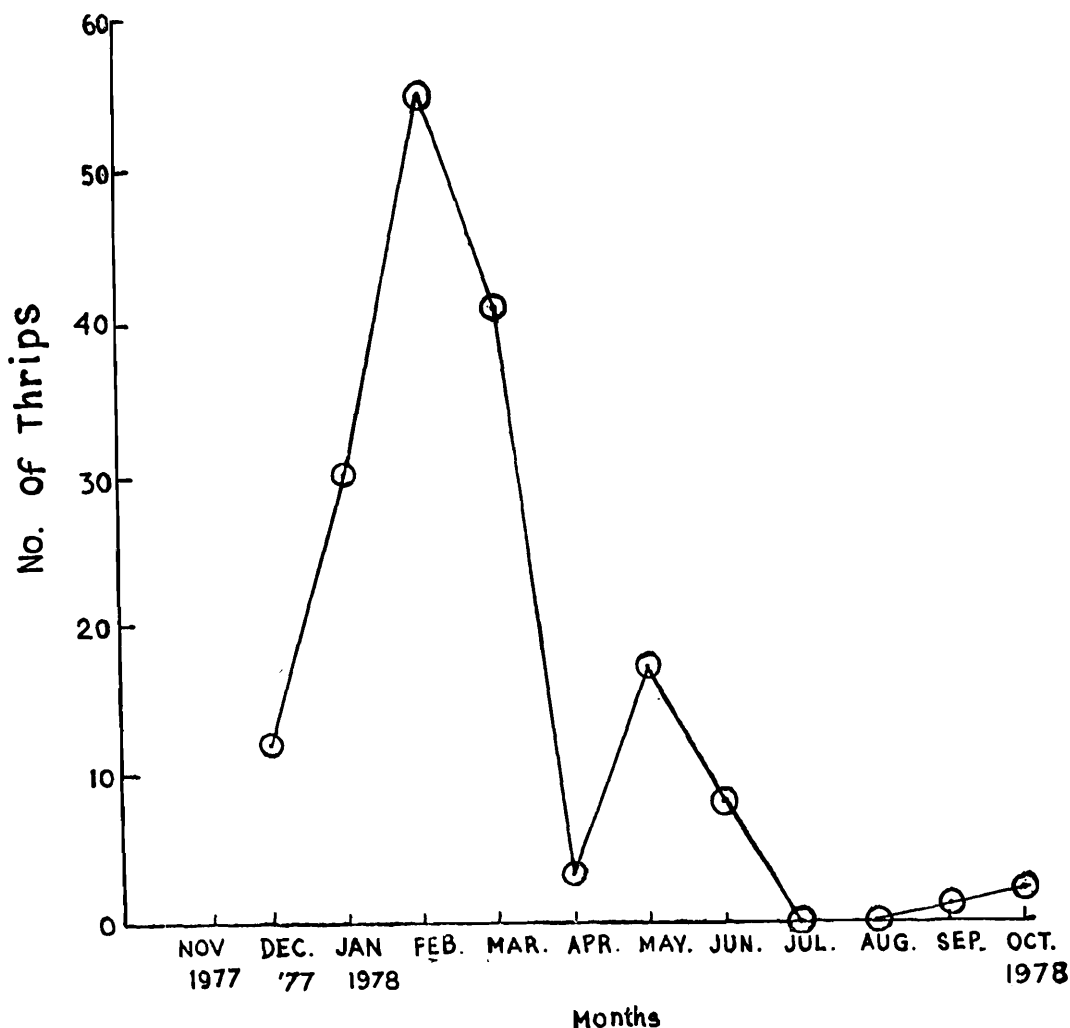


SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE POPULATION OF *PRIESNERIOLA O'NIELLAE*
ANANTHAKRISHNAN IN A GRASS FIELD IN CALCUTTA

During the course of an investigation on the grass inhabiting thrips in a field near Ballygunge Lake, Calcutta, the authors came across the unique species *Priesneriola o'niellae* Ananthakrishnan in quite good numbers along with some other species of thrips. *P. o'niellae* Ananthakrishnan a slender bicolorous species, characterised by six segmented antennae, longer sixth segment, small pedicellate 3rd segment, large eyes and a slight anteocular

projection was first reported from Madras (Ananthakrishnan, 1964) and the present discovery extends the range of its distribution from Peninsular India to the North Eastern region.

An analysis of the species composition of Thysanoptera during 1977-78 indicates that there are six species inhabiting this particular grass field. *Haplothrips ganglbaueri*, a widely



⊙ *Priesneriola o'niellae* Ananth.

Fig. 1. Population fluctuation of *Priesneriola o'niellae* Ananthakrishnan.

distributed polyphagous species was the most common, found almost throughout the year and comprising 83.4% of the total thrips population. Other species, in order of dominance are *Priesneriola o'niellae* (10.03%), *Thrips hawaiiensis* (4.25%), *Caliothrips indicus* (1.07%), *Phibalothrips perungyi* (0.86%) and *Anaphothrips sudanensis* (0.11%).

In view of the restricted distribution records and absence of males resulting in parthenogenetic mode of reproduction, observations were made on the numerical fluctuations of *P. o'niellae* during the period 1977 (Nov.)-1978 (Oct.) (fig. 1). Sampling was done once in every fifteen days over a period of twelve

months and 10 beats were the standard adopted for the collection of thrips from this grass field. Populations of this species are available almost throughout the year except during the rainy months of July and August, and the maximum peak occurred during February-March, the beginning of summer months in Calcutta. Populations gradually decline during summer and totally disappears from the field during rainy season. *P. o'niellae* reappears in the field in September.

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