

## CHRYSOCORIS STOLLI WOLF, A SAP FEEDER PENTATOMID BUG ON THE WEED IN NORTH WESTERN DISTRICTS OF U.P.

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### ABSTRACT

*Chrysocoris stollii* Wolf is a polyphagous phytosuccivorous bug, infests *Cassia occidentalis*, *Croton sparisiflorum*. The population feeds on leaves, seeds and inflorescence. The bug first probes suitable feeding site with the aid of sensory setae of the rostrum and then piercing is done by styletes and when feeding is over the bug withdraws its styletes and either move away from the feeding site or remained in near by vicinity.

After feeding, rostrum and antenna are cleaned by antenna and rostrum cleaner device named by Dhiman and Dhiman (1885). The *C.stollii* occurs actively during March to October and hibernates from November to February. The number of adults as well as nymphs reaches on peak in September. In mid October the older nymphs 4th and 5th instars prepare for quick feeding and moulting to become adults. Seasonal occurrence of *C.stollii* was observed in relation to host plants and abiotic factors.

**KEYWORDS:** C. stollii, Weed, Feeding, Seasonal Occurrence

### INTRODUCTION

Pentatomid bug are often injurious to agricultural crops and horticultural trees of economic value. By their desapping habit these cause extensive damage and yield of crop is reduced *C. stollii* (Heteroptera Pentatomidae Scutellerinae) is a polyphagous succivorous bug of this family which has beautiful coloration (metallic green or blue with black spot) and cause considerable damage to the weed such as *Cassia occidentalis* and *Croton sparisiflorum* at Saharanpur. On this insect only few studies have been carried in this region by, Dhiman and Kumar (2005, 06, 07 08, 2013) In this paper an endeavor has been made to study this bug in relation to the weed which is abundantly found in North Western districts of U.P. including Saharanpur.



**Food Plant Croton Sparisiflorum of C. Stollii**



**First Nymphal Instars of *C. Stollii***

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

Population of bugs was maintained in laboratory on the caged potted plants of *Cassia occidentalis* and *Croton sparisiflorum*. Damage caused by the feeding on the weed *Cassia occidentalis* and *Croton sparisiflorum* was investigated in lab as well as in field conditions. For this a definite number of bug was released on healthy potted caged plants and nature and extent of damage was recorded. Feeding behavior was also noted in reflected light under binocular, microscope on the leaf of *Cassia occidentalis*. Piercing and sucking behavior was keenly observed. Seasonal occurrence of *C. stollii* was observed in field at Saharanpur.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

*Chrysocoris stollii* is a polyphagous phytosuccivorous bug found infesting *Cassia occidentalis* and *Croton sparisiflorum* at Saharanpur. Adults and nymphs feed on the leaves, seeds and inflorescence of these food plants. During orientation toward food both the antennae perform up and down movements. The sensory setae present on the terminal segment take active part in the olfaction.

The rostrum also attain erected position while moving in search of food. In case of the nymphal instars, second and third instars directly move towards food, while fourth and fifth took a looping path to reach to the food. Shorter loops were taken by fourth and fifth instars in comparison to adults. After approaching food source the bugs first probe suitable feeding site with the aid of sensory setae of the rostrum and then piercing is done by maxillary and mandibular stylets.

When feeding is over the bugs withdraw the stylets and either move away from the feeding site or remain in nearby vicinity. After feeding rostrum and antennae are cleaned by antennae and rostrum cleaner device named by Dhiman and Dhiman (1985). The device is situated at the inner side of prothoracic tibia extremely. Combing is done several times either by one or both cleaning device on the rostrum and antennae, to get rid of foreign matter; It was further noted that after feeding, second and third instars move towards water dipped cotton swab kept in petridish. *Chrysocoris stollii* occurs during the particular season of the year on its food plants and during adverse condition, it does not found in nature. Hence, during this period where this graceful bug goes, it was extensively searched and found that this insect undergoes for hibernation in winter. During winter months late November to mid February, *C. stollii* hibernates in adults stage to pass adverse cold climate in dormant stage only.

The late nymphal stage wait for their final moults in November and moulted imagoes then undergo for hibernation. However, eggs and nymphal stage do not enter for hibernation. These stage perish in late November if present in nature. Main hibernating sites were observed as crevices of tree trunk, under side of bark holes in soil, under debris,

stones, stacked bricks, fallen leaves and even in the crevices and cracks of wall of the houses, old crumbling building. Forts etc. As soon as summer is approached during late February hibernation is broken due to rise in field temperature and the bug population comes out in open field on host plants. During summer, though the bug population do not aestivate but it shift to the under side of host plants leaves or on the host plant situated in shadow areas to save themselves from the direct exposure to the scorching sun heat. younger nymphs congregate on the ventral leaf surface. At Saharanpur the weed *Croton sparisiflorum* and *Cassia occidentalis* occur in good number barren lands. On road side and even in agricultural lands. On these wildy grown plants *C.stollii* occurs and food during late Feb, to mid of November and actively desap the leaves and inflorescence content. Though, one or two bugs do not cause any visible damage to the plant but more than five bugs and gregarious feeding by nymphal instars inflict good damage to the plants. In Saharanpur medical report of the examination of the children affected by brain fever mentioned. The cause eating of the seed of *Cassia occidentalis* by the patients. Hence, doctors recommended removals of *Cassia occidentalis* plants from the field but it need a lot of man power. Hence, release of *C.stollii* in field after multiplication may serve the purpose to some extent.



Food Plant (Bajra) Pennisetum Typhoides of C. Stollii



Food Plant Cassia Occidentalis of C. Stollii



Chrysocoris Stollii in Copulation

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