RECORD OF *FLEMINGIA SEMIALATA* ROXB. AS A LAC HOST

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Abstract

Flemingia semialata was evaluated for its potentiality as a lac host and was found promising host for intensive lac cultivation.

Introduction

Out of 15 species of the genus *Flemingia.* Roxburgh ex Aiton f. syn. *Moghania* Jaume St-Hil. (Family Leguminosae, subfamily Papileonaceae) reported so far, *Flemingia macrophylla* (Willd.) O.Ktze., *F. chappar* Ktze. and *F. strobilifera* R.Br. have already been reported as host of Indian lac insect *Kerria lacca* Kerr (Glover, 1937; Roonwal *et al.*, 1958; Purkayastha and Prasad, 1962 and Kumar and Srivastava, 1990).

Seeds of *F. semialata* Roxb. were procured from ICRISAT, Hyderabad to evaluate their potentiality as a lac host. Seedlings raised in well prepared nursery beds during May-June were transplanted in July in the pits dug during May-June to ensure proper weathering of the pits followed by refilling it with mixture of soil, FYM and aldrin dust. Spraying of insecticides and weeding operations were undertaken as and when required. Next year, plants were inoculated during June-July with both the strains of lac insect, i.e., *kusumi* and *rangeeni* for raising *aghani* and *katki* crops respectively.

It has been observed that one year old plant attains a height of 104.4 cm with 1.1 cm diameter, 68.8 cm canopy spread, 6.1 tillers and 493.2 cm length of inoculable shoots. Plants accepted both the strains of lac insect, though the performance of *kusmi* strain was better than that of the *rangeeni.* However, thick lac encrustations, almost equivalent to that obtained from *Kusum* was obtained from the *aghani* crop (Fig. 1). Summer crop of both the strains did not perform well on this host species. Post harvest observation indicates that the subsequent progenies were fertile. With proper management practices, it could emerge as a promising host for intensive lac cultivation on plantation basis.

Plate 1. *Flemingia semialata* showing lac encrustation.

References

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