

## **INSECTS ON *LANTANA CAMARA* IN MADHYA PRADESH**

VINOD KUMAR MISHRA<sup>1</sup>, MAHIMA TRIPATHI<sup>2</sup> AND NITIN KULKARNI<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>*Department of Zoology, Mata Gujri Women College,  
Civic Centre Jabalpur - 482001 (MP), India*

<sup>3</sup>*Forest Entomology Division, TFRI, Jabalpur, 482021*

<sup>1</sup>*Corresponding author: vinodkumarmishra2009@yahoo.in*

**ABSTRACT:** *Lantana* rich sites of Seoni, Jabalpur, Mandla, Katni, Balaghat and Dindori Districts Madhya Pradesh, India were selected randomly and visited fortnightly i.e., the growth season of *Lantana* weed during July to December 2012 for the assessment and collection of insects as biological control agents of *Lantana* in the field. Abundance and infestation percentage of observed insects in the field was recorded and analyzed in the laboratory. Some economically important promising species were reared in the laboratory. During the study 19 insect pest species were recorded. Three of them were identified as new report on *Lantana* as host plant. Besides leaf defoliators and sap suckers three insect were found feeding obligatory (tested under the experimental conditions) on fruits and flower buds of all available *Lantana* varieties (red, yellow, orange, blue and white florets) in field as well as in the laboratory. Feeding on fruits and flower indicates their potential as biological control agents of this poisonous weed. Investigations planned to standardize the potential of surveyed insects for the management of *Lantana* weed under threshold level in the field and result obtained have been discussed.

**Key words:** *Abundance, Infestation, Forest weed, Lantana biocontrol, Lantana camara, Poisonous weeds*