

Scutelleridae as potential pests of star gooseberry (*Phyllanthus acidus*) (L.) Skeels**Salini, S., Rabbani, M. K., David, K. J. and Sachin, K.***National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bangalore, 560024, India***Corresponding author: *shalinis.nilavu@gmail.com*****Abstract**

Phyllanthus acidus (L.) Skeels, is one of the minor and underutilized fruit crops, was found infested by the scutellerid bugs, *Scutellera perplexa* (Westw.) and *Chrysocoris stockerus* (Linn.). Of these, *Chrysocoris stockerus* is recorded for the first time feeding on this crop. Both the species were morphologically characterized along with the description of male and female genitalia. Besides, a brief note on the nature of damage caused by these bugs is also given.

Key words: *Phyllanthus*, male and female genitalia, brown spots, *Chrysocoris*, *Scutellera*.

Introduction

Phyllanthus acidus (L.) Skeels, belonging to family Phyllanthaceae, is a small deciduous tree, known for its dense clusters of berries (Fig. 20) hanging from the branches. The berries are light green colored, smooth, juicy with a taste of sweet and sour ideal for pickling and many a times a dietary especially in villages of India. This is a minor fruit tree and act as a host for only a few insect pests like whiteflies, mealybugs and fruit flies (CABI, 2021).

Among the various insect pests reported, the scutellerid bug, *Scutellera perplexa* (Westwood) is an important pest, which was reported on *P. acidus* (reported as *Phyllanthus distichus* Hook. & Arn., a synonym of *Phyllanthus acidus*) by Kavadia *et al.*, 1971. These bugs are commonly called as jewel bugs and are known to feed on *Jatropha curcas* L. (Parveen *et al.*, 2010), *Buchanania cochinchinensis* (Lour.) M. R. Almeida (Onkar and Nerlekar, 2015), *Vitis vinifera* L. (Singh and Kaur, 2015) and *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. (Singh *et al.*, 2014). Besides, they are known as pests of several cultivated crops including horticultural crops and crops of industrial importance (Parveen, 2011). This paper deals with the taxonomy and nature of damage by *S. perplexa* and *C. stockerus* (Linn.) on Star gooseberry, (*P. acidus*). The latter is recorded as a pest of Star gooseberry for the first time from India.