

**IDENTIFICATION OF GALL FORMING
INSECT ON *Erythrina indica* IN
VAVUNIYA AND BATTICALOA
DISTRICTS**

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SRILANKA
2008**

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ABSTRACT

The *Erythrina* gall forming insect was first recorded in damaging coral trees, *Erythrina* species (Fabaceae.) in southern Taiwan in 2003, since then it has rapidly spread throughout the islands on various species of *Erythrina*. Galls form on the leaves, petioles, young shoots, stems and obvious swelling can be seen on infected tissue part. Severe infestations cause curling of young shoots, defoliation and death of the tree. This study involved the identification of gall forming insect on *Erythrina indica* and their infestation level at Vavuniya district.

A questionnaire survey was carried out in the Vavuniya district to find out the damage level of this insect. The infested leaves of *Erythrina indica* by gall forming insect were collected from the Animal Production Farm at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, premises and the selected farmers fields in the Vavuniya district at weekly interval for the period of two months. The infested leaves were reared on special vials until the emergence of adult insects. The emerged adults were preserved for further studies.

The number of adult insects was carefully examined to identify the species based on their morphological characteristics. Adult insects were mounted because of their small size. A number of different keys, reference collections, taxonomic catalogues and many descriptions were used in the identification.

The gall forming insect on *Erythrina* was identified as *Quadrasties erythrinae* by Kim *et al* (2004). The questionnaire survey showed that the more than 85% of the *Erythrina indica* was damaged by *Quadrasties erythrinae* and this is the highest threat for the production of *Erythrina indica* in future.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	II
CONTENTS	III
LIST OF FIGURES	VII
LIST OF TABLES	IX
CHAPTER 01 INTRODUCTION	01
CHAPTER 02 LITERATURE REVIEW	04
2.1 <i>Erythrina</i> tree	04
2.1.1 Botanical classification of <i>Erythrina indica</i>	04
2.1.2 Origin	04
2.2 Botant of <i>Erythrina indica</i>	04
2.2.1. Tree	04
2.2.2. Trunk	05
2.2.3. Leaves	05
2.2.4. Flowers	05
2.2.5 Fruit	05
2.2.6 Seeds	06
2.3 Growth requirements	06
2.3.1 Soil	06
2.3.2 Moisture	06
2.3.4 Temperature	06
2.3.5 Light	06
2.3.6 Disease and pest	06

2.4 Uses of <i>Erythrina</i> tree	07
2.4.1 Importance in Animals life	07
2.4.2 Fodder	08
2.4.3 Live fence posts	08
2.4.4 Shade	08
2.4.5 Support of vine crops	09
2.4.6 Wind breaks	09
2.4.7 Wood	09
2.4.8 Medicinal purposes	10
2.4.9 Silviculture	10
2.4.10 Cultural aspects	11
2.5 Gall formation in plants	11
2.5.1 Gall formation on <i>Erythrina</i>	11
2.5.2 <i>Erythrina</i> gall wasp	13
2.5.3 Habits of gall forming insects	16
2.6 Major control strategies	21
2.6.1 Short term	21
2.6.2 Long term	21
2.6.2.1 Biological control	21
2.6.2.2 Chemical control	21
2.6.2.3 Factors contributing effective drench	
Treatment	22
2.6.2.4 Factors affecting injection efficacy	22
2.7 Growing of <i>Erythrina</i> tree	22
2.8 Characters of Order Hymenoptera	24

2.9 Family Eulophidae	26
CHAPTER 03 MATERIALS AND METHODS	29
3.1 Location	29
3.2 Methodology	30
3.2.1 Questionnaire survey	30
3.2.2 Culturing of insects	31
3.2.2.1 Sample collection from Animal Production Farm, Eastern University Sri Lanka	31
3.2.2.2 Sample collection from Vavuniya District	31
3.3 Identification of <i>Erythrina</i> gall forming insect	32
3.4 Establishment of <i>Erythrina indica</i> trees and testing of insect	33
CHAPTER 04 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	34
4.1 Distribution of <i>Erythrina</i> gall forming insects	34
4.1.1 Distribution of <i>Erythrina</i> gall forming insect in the world	34
4.1.2 Distribution of <i>Erythrina</i> gall forming insect in the Sri Lanka	34
4.2 Symptoms	34
4.3 The survey of the <i>Erythrina</i> gall insect infestation at Vavuniya	37
4.3.1 Number of <i>Erythrina</i> trees	37
4.3.2 Method of planting of <i>Erythrina</i> trees	37
4.3.3 Infestation of gall forming insect in <i>Erythrina</i> trees	38
4.3.4 Method of control	38
4.4 Identification of gall forming insect in <i>Erythrina</i> trees	39
4.4.1 Head	39