

**SOME OBSERVATIONS OF THE BEHAVIOUR, LIFE CYCLE AND DEVELOPMENT OF
SPHAERODEMA RUSTICUM (Fabr.) UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS**

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Sphaerodema rusticum (Fabr.) is a representative of the family BELOSTOMATIDAE belonging to the Order HEMIPTERA. In Sri Lanka there are two genera each represented by a single species.

Observations on the behaviour, life cycle and development of *Sphaerodema rusticum* (Fabr.) were conducted in the laboratory from the specimens collected from the Diyawanna Oya, Nawala, Sri Lanka.

It was observed that:—

The adult does not take to flight as indicated by Fernando (1961 a, 1961 b, 1963 a).

Both nymphs and adults show a partiality toward mosquito larvae during feeding as observed by Hoffman (1926).

Although mating behaviour was observed as early as five days, oviposition was not evident till approximately thirty days following the attainment of the last instar.

The dip direction of the rocks at the boundary of this Complex indicates a stratigraphically higher position than the surrounding Vijayan migmatites. Diamond drilling along Tissa-Kataramaga Road also showed a stratigraphically higher position for the Kataragama rocks. The boundary for these rocks is a highly deformed, brecciated calc-gneiss indicating a tectonic dislocation between the Kataragama Complex and the Vijayan migmatites. These facts point towards a possibility that the Kataragama rock assemblage is a thrust sheet separated from the Highland Group proper.