

**REARING METHODS OF *CYRTORHINUS LIVIDIPENNIS* (HEMIPTERA: MIRIDEA)
A PREDATOR OF *NILAPARVATA LUGENS* (HOMOPTERA: (DELPHACIDAE)**

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Cyrtorhinus lividipennis Reuter is an efficient predator of *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stal), the most destructive pest of rice in Sri Lanka. Attempts have been made to evaluate its effectiveness as a biological control agent of *N. lugens* in rice fields outside Sri Lanka. No culture technique, however has been reported for rearing *C. lividipennis*. The present paper describes the rearing of *C. lividipennis* in the laboratory, with a view to releasing these in rice fields.

SECTION D

Three different kinds of cages were used in rearing—a large wooden sleeve cage with wire mesh and glass doors, a medium sized plastic sleeve cage with fine mesh and plastic doors and a plastic bottle and chimney arrangement.

N. lugens cultured on 2-week old rice seedlings, was provided as host. Rice plants, 4-6 weeks old, were found to be necessary for nymph production by *C. lividipennis* indicating that mature rice plants are necessary for oviposition by *C. lividipennis*.

First instar nymphs of *C. lividipennis* fed only on eggs of *N. lugens* ; second to fourth instar nymphs preyed on eggs and nymphs of *N. lugens* ; and adults attacked all stages of *N. lugens*.

The culture methods described in this paper appear to be adequate for rearing *C. lividipennis* for release in rice fields of Sri Lanka for purpose of biological control *N. lugens*.