

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF APHIDS
ON DIFFERENT HOST PLANTS

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Over fifty different plant species belonging to twenty plant families were examined for aphids. The plants examined included weeds, ornamentals and crops of economic importance. Aphids on collection were stored in 70% alcohol and subsequently slide mounted and identified. The identify of aphids were further confirmed by the C.A.B. International Institute of Entomology, London.

More than 30 species of aphids were recorded from the different host plants. Of these Aphis gossypii Glover (complex) was found to be the most predominant and polyphagous aphid species inhabiting more than six different plant families, while Aphis craccivora Koch was confined to a single plant family Leguminosae. 90% of the grasses harboured a single aphid species Hysteroneura setariae (Thomas), while Sitobion avenae (Fabricius) was the least common aphid common species on grass. Sitobion wickstroemia (Mamet) collected from a common hedge plant in Kandy Wickstroemia canescens (Thymellaeacea) has so far been recorded only from East Africa and Mauritius. The common weed Vernonia cinerea (L.) (Compositae) was found to be the host of a rare aphid species, Uroleucon minutus van der Goot.

Majority of the identified aphids included well known vectors of plant viruses. However, only a few of the host plants harbouring potential virus vectors showed actual symptoms of virus infection, at the time of collection.

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