

TRACHYS HERILLA OBEN. (COLEOPTERA: BUPRESTIDAE),
A LEAF-MINER OF OKRA.

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Okra leaf-miner Trachys herilla not previously reported from Sri Lanka was first observed in Kelaniya in 1980. This beetle measures 2.2 - 2.5 mm in length and 1.3 - 1.4 mm in width at its widest point. There are no obvious morphological differences between the sexes. The adults are iridescent golden brown in colour. Their elytra are covered with short, glistening hairs. Adults feed on the margins of young okra leaves. They copulate several times prior to egg-laying. The preoviposition period is 12 - 15 days. 2 - 4 eggs were laid per day by a female usually on the abaxial surface of a leaf close to its margin. Eggs are circular in outline and have a diameter of 0.66 - 0.79 mm. Incubation period is 3 days under laboratory conditions. The first instar larva penetrates the chorion and leaf epidermis, enters the mesophyll tissue and by its feeding produces a gallery mine. Feeding by subsequent instars produces a blotch mine. The larvae have flat bodies and are apodous. Due to larval feeding, leaves become membranous followed by yellowing and withering. Young plants are more prone to attack than older plants. The larval period is 6 days. Pupation takes place within the leaf mine. The pupal period is 5 days. Longevity of the adults ranged from 3 - 8 week, females living longer than the males.