

BIOLOGY OF A GALL PSYLLID PAUROPSYLLA DEPRESSA
CRAWFORD ON FICUS GLOMERATA ROXB. IN JAFFNA PENINSULA

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Two types of galls were found on the leaves of Ficus glomerata Roxb. in Jaffna peninsula - isolated, unilocular galls 5-7 mm in diameter and multilocular, agglomerated galls 8-11 mm in diameter. Both were inhabited by the psyllid Pauropsylla depressa Crawford.

There were five instars with the following average measurements: first instar 0.42 mm long and 0.25 mm wide; second instar 0.67 mm long and 0.45 mm wide, third instar 0.93 mm long and 0.63 mm wide, fourth instar 1.44 mm long and 0.92 mm wide and fifth instar 1.92 mm long and 1.51 mm wide respectively. The adult male measures 1.7 mm long and 1.02 mm wide and the adult female 2.1 mm long and 0.93 mm wide. The psyllid spends all developmental stages in the gall and comes out through a lacerated opening on the lower side of the leaf.

A braconid parasite was found associated with the psyllid in the galls. The braconid adults average 2.52 mm long and 0.96 mm wide and have 22 segmented antennae. Both wings are clear, with reduced venation. The ovipositor was well developed, and averaged 2.38 mm long and was permanently extruded.

Though a first record for Sri Lanka, P. depressa has been reported on leaves of F. glomerata in India (Mathur 1935).

Reference: Mathur, R.N. 1935. On the biology of Psyllidae.
Indian Forest Record (NS) 1(2): 35-71.