

***Araecerus fasciculatus* (Degeer) (Coleoptera: Anthribidae), a biocontrol agent for the woody weed *Parkinsonia aculeata* L. in Hambantota district**

Parkinsonia aculeata L is recognized as widely distributed major woody weed in Hambantota District in wide variety of habitats. Control of this weed in cultivated fields is one of the major issues in Hambantota District. The pods of *P.aculeata* are found to be attacked by Anthribid weevil *Araecerus fasciculatus* (Degeer).The present study concerned with the Morphology, Biology and abundance of *A. fasciculatus* on *P. aculeata* in different in different locations in Hambantota District during June 1988 to April 1999. Aimed at the possibility of using this pest as a biological agent for controlling *P. aculeata*. Once a month, hundred pods of weed host were taken from eight experimental sites and the daily emergence of *A. fasciculatus* on *P. aculeata* were recorded. The Analysis of Variance for total number of emergence of *A. fasciculatus* on *P. aculeata* was done by Complete Randomized Block Design. ANOVA showed that there was significant difference between abundance of *A. fasciculatus* and on *P. aculeata* was recorded during January and the lowest during October. The increased infestation levels of *A. fasciculatus* on *P. aculeata* is encouraging for further development of this biological method of controlling this woody weed. There by to reduce the use of other control measures such as chemical and mechanical weed control etc.