

**Study on Erythrina Gall wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae* Kim); a newly recorded pest species on Eramudu (*Erythrina subumbrans*.Hassak.) plants**

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*Erythrina subumbrans*, well known as Eramudu is a common tree grow throughout the country for long period without visible pest damages. In 2005 young shoots, leaves and leaf petioles of Eramudu plants grown in Matara district were severely deformed due to the formation of galls. Similar observations were made for plants grown in many parts of the country.

Present study reveals that these galls are formed due to the attack of tiny wasp belong to the family Eulophidae of order Hymenoptera. Life cycle of the pest completed within 20 days. Adult females lay eggs on young shoots and entire larval and pupal stages are completed within the galls. Galls formed in leaves were smaller than the galls form on leaf petioles ( $p < .05$ ). Young plants were destroyed due to pest damage, but mature plants are producing small buds with 100% infestations. None of the infected plants produced any flowers, which have very high cultural value to the country. Natural enemies were not recorded during the study period. In addition other leguminous plants belong to family Fabaceae were not affected by the pest

Taxonomic studies revealed that that this pest was described in 2004 as a new species using the specimens from Singapore, Mauritius and Reunion. Since then it has been reported from Taiwan, Hong Kong and India affecting *E.variagata* L. plants. The pest was identified as highly invasive species affecting Erythrina plants in many parts of the world.

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