

Natural enemies on *Mikania micrantha* H.B.K. in Kerala

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Abstract

Laboratory and field investigations were conducted to identify the natural enemies of *Mikania micrantha* H.B.K. and to evaluate their efficacy as biocontrol agents. During a survey on the distribution of *Mikania* in Kerala, pests seen on this weed were collected. Nineteen species of insect pests and a species of mite belonging to 15 families and eight orders were identified. Nature and extent of damage caused by these different pests on *Mikania* were studied. Among them tea mosquito bug (*Helopeltis theivora*) caused serious damage on *Mikania*. All these pests are polyphagous in nature. So further scope for utilizing them as biocontrol agent is limited.

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