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26. *CASSIA SIAMEA* LAMK.—A NEW HOST PLANT FOR THE CASTOR SLUG CATERPILLAR, *PARASA LEPIDA* (COCHLIDIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA)

Vasanthraj David and Kumarswami (1978) noted *Parasa lepida* as a polyphagous pest feeding on castor, coconut, pomegranate, mango, palmyrah, citrus and wood apple. During the months of August-September 1982 the larvae of this pest were found attacking the leaves of *Cassia siamea* a very common avenue tree. The early instar caterpillars scraped the chlorophyll content resulting in skeletonization of the leaves whereas the later instars fed on the leaves acting as a severe defoliator. The larvae fed both from the centre as well as from the margins. However, the majority of the larvae

fed from the margins. The number of larvae per leaflet varied from 2 to 3. A few larvae were collected from the trees and reared in rearing cage by providing the leaves as food material. All the larvae completed their life cycle without any deformity. The full grown larvae pupated in a hemispherical, oval, dark brown cocoon which was surrounded by loosely woven-silk webbing. Under field conditions pupation was observed on the branch or bark of the tree. *Parasa lepida* could be a serious pest on *Cassia siamea*.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
DHARWAD,
January 24, 1984.

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M. C. DEVAIAH

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27. ADDITIONS TO THE TERMITE FAUNA OF THE THAR DESERT

The Great Indian Desert, also known as the Thar Desert, comprises a huge area of c. 44,600 sq. km in Western India and Pakistan. It forms the eastern extremity of the Great Palaearctic Desert which extends from North Africa, via

Palestine, Arabia and Iran, to northwestern India. The major portion of the Indian arid region of Thar is contained in Rajasthan (62%), followed by Gujarat (20%), Punjab (5%) and Haryana (4%). Termites from the

Rajasthan portion of the Thar Desert were studied in considerable detail by a number of workers, as reviewed by Roonwal (1982). As many as 27 species have been recorded from this region (Roonwal 1976). But there is no published information available on the Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana portions of the Thar Desert.

Termite fauna of Gujarat State were worked out comprehensively (Thakur 1982) and 46 species were recorded. Out of these, as many as 27 species have been recorded from the arid and semi-arid areas of Gujarat, of which 11 are additions to the termite fauna of Thar Desert. This considerable increase in the termite fauna of this region has brought out the fact that even an arid area like the Great Indian Desert can sustain a great variety of termites, which shows the great resistance of termites to arid climates.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
DESERT REGIONAL STATION,
JODHPUR,
July 27, 1983.

TERMITES HITHERTO UNRECORDED IN GUJARAT
PORTION OF THE THAR DESERT

Family TERMITIDAE

Subfamily TERMITINAE

Eremotermes fletcheri Holmgren and Holmgren

Microcerotermes cameroni Snyder

Microcerotermes heimi Wasmann

Subfamily MACROTERMITINAE

Odontotermes assmuthi Holmgren

Odontotermes bellahunisensis Holmgren &
Holmgren

Odontotermes girnarensis Thakur

Odontotermes lokanandi Chatterjee & Thakur

Odontotermes paralatiguloides Thakur

Odontotermes redemanni (Wasmann)

Odontotermes sasangirensis Thakur

Odontotermes wallonensis (Wasmann)

R. K. THAKUR

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28. FURTHER RECORDS OF OCCURRENCE AND INCIDENCE
OF DAMAGE BY TERMITES OF THE GENUS *CRYPTOTERMES*
BANKS IN INDIA (ISOPTERA: KALOTERMITIDAE)

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cryptotermes* includes one of the most economically important groups of dry-

wood termites which are popularly known as "powder post termites". These are essentially coastal termites, except for records of some species further inland in native habitats (Emer-



Thakur, R. K. 1984. "ADDITIONS TO THE TERMITE FAUNA OF THE THAR DESERT INDIA." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 81, 496–497.

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