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**NOTES ON THE BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF
EUPASTRANAIA FENESTRATA MÉNÉTRIÉS
(LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE: MIDILINAE)**

There is little knowledge about the biology of the Midilinae, a small subtropical subfamily of Pyralidae. According to Munroe (1970), 45 species in seven genera are known. Munroe adds that the adults are sluggish and weakly phototactic, making them rare in collections. The only immature record known is that of the larva of *Cacographis osteolalis* Lederer as a borer in *Colocasias* (Araceae) (Munroe, 1970).

In this note we present the first host record for *Eupastranaia fenestrata* Ménétériés larvae and some information about its biology and behaviour.

This study was carried out in the “restinga” (coastal scrub) of Barra de Maricá, Rio de Janeiro State, Brasil (22°57'S, 42°50'W) where *Philodendron corcovadense* Kunth (Araceae) is the host of *E. fenestrata*. According to Munroe (1970) this moth species occurs from southern Brazil to northern Argentina.

The moth lays single eggs on the upper or lower surface of the leaves. The newly hatched larva bores into a petiole or into the leaf bud. The third instar larva moves to the apical portion of the stem, bores into it and stays there until adult emergence. During larval development a chamber is formed and frass is placed outside through the larval penetration hole. Larval development lasts approximately 41 days (N = 15) with seven instars, and the pupal stage lasts approximately 25 days (N = 3).

A few *E. fenestrata* eggs were parasitized by *Telenomus californicus* species group (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae), a gregarious parasitoid.

When the larva starts feeding activity inside the stem the plant apical growth is stopped, resulting in a compensatory growth response. A lateral stem bud starts to grow just below the larva chamber causing an abnormal architecture in *P. corcovadense* (Fig. 1).

In order to test the nature of the plant response to larval feeding, fifteen apical shoots of *P. corcovadense* were removed. After 60 days, 87% of the plants produced lateral stems and only 7% of the plants in the control group produced lateral stems, thus showing the mechanical nature of plant response.

Voucher specimens of *E. fenestrata* are deposited in the Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, and ones of the *Telenomus californicus* species group are in the Museu de La Plata, Argentina.—Marina C.P. Pimentel, Margarete

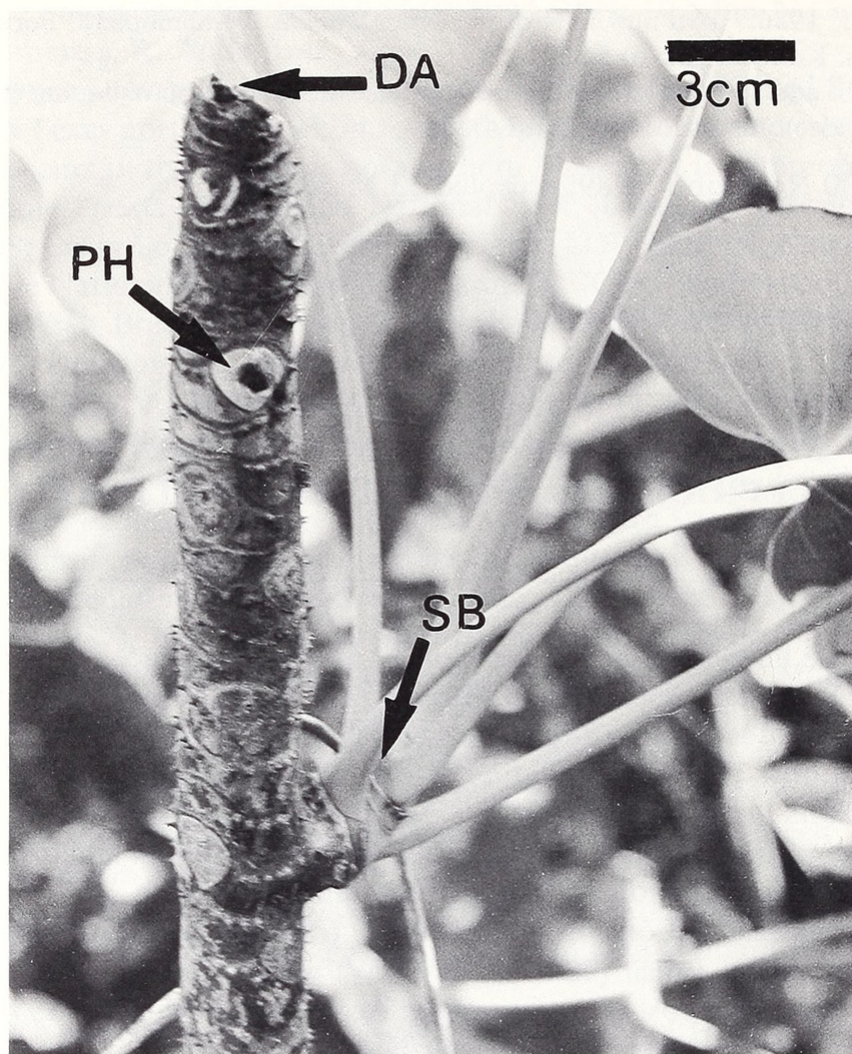


Fig. 1. *Philodendron corcovadense* structure infested by larva of *Eupastranaia fenestrata*. Note the dead apex (DA) and the stem bud (SB) grown below the larval penetration hole (PH).

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