

**Short Communication**

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**A Morphological Feature Characterizing the Chinese Lac Insect, *Kerria chinensis***

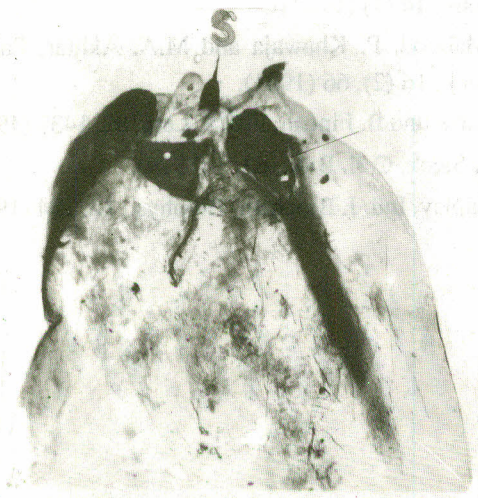
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As prolongation of upper spiracle there is chitization like a rib. This feature has been found only with the species, *Kerria chinensis*. This species is found in South China, Assam, Burmah, Siam and Vietnam.

Lac insects produce shellac which is a commercial product. It therefore pays to cultivate it increasing the produce. In Assam the species, *Kerria chinensis* is cultivated on *Cajanus indicus*, or Arhar and a planter from Nowgong kindly sent me an encrustation. From this material insects illustrated here, as the two figures were prepared.

Fig.1 *Kerria chinensis*

It was essential to find a morphological feature which would characterize the species. The insect has two upper and major spiracles, associated with them, there are Brachial

Fig. 2 *Kerria chinensis*

tubercles. In the present species these tubercles are specially small. But below the spiracles the chitin is thickened to form, as it were, chitinous ribs. They are prominent enough in both the figures. When compared with the species, *Kerria nagolienis*, which grows on *Scheleichers trijuga*, the brachial tubercles are the longest in *K. nagolienis* but shortest in *K. chinensis*, but what has been called here "chitinous ribs" is absent in Nagoli lac insects but obviously long only in *K. cjomensis*. Hence this feature then easily enables its identification.

**Key words:** Insect, Chinese lac, *K. chinensis*.

**Reference**

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