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Indian red bug *Probergrothius sanguinolens* -a scavenger

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When it comes to heteropterans, the Red Bug has been identified and described as a seed feeder in literature. *Probergrothius* and *Dysdercus* have both clearly seen the establishment of a stylet sheath when feeding on mature (fresh) and ripe (dry) seeds and seed pods, but not on unripe seeds. No such thing was seen while *Probergrothius* (Necrophagus) and *Angtilochus* were feeding on animal food (predacious).

According to Vas Doesburg (1968), *Probergrothius* and *Dysdercus* are primarily seed feeders, as are other pyrrhocorids. Typically, seeds are abundant in soluble nitrogen compounds, lipids, and

oils, which are always desirable and essential for adequate nutrition and egg production (Ahmed and Schaffer, 1987). *Probergrothius* use both pytophagic and necrophagic feeding strategies.

It was found that it is also capable of feeding on carcasses. An intriguing phenomenon in *Probergrothius* is the consumption of decaying organisms as an additional food source in addition to cannibalising the moulted young ones. It was observed that pyrrhocorids consumed carrion and corpses by Myres (1927), Ballard and Evans (1928), Youdeowei (1969), Stahle (1981), and Adis and Froeschner (1982).

The seed pods of sterculia tree, which is near our experimental plot (11° 23' 16.53081", 79° 43' 27.63969" and Department of Entomology, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu) was a major source of food for red bugs. The food preference study was the primary objective of our work with the predator *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Weaver Ant) in the research plot.

Seven different foods were used in the treatment, with fresh chicken leg one of it. When the chicken leg dried up and decayed after two days, there was a colony of red bugs over it. By the end of the fifth day, the bugs had departed from the chicken after it had completely rotted. Olfactory stimuli were crucial in this movement. When seeds were scarce, *Probergrothius* preferred to consume carrion, carcasses, and other plant parts. As a result, chemical and visual markers are used to determine food cues (Rajadurai, 1992).

Further research is needed on the physiology of the insect involved in food preferences and chemical cues that identify food sources.

Day 1 **Day 2**

Weaver ants thrive on fresh chicken skin with bone

Day 3

***Probergrothius sanguinolens* insertion of stylets and clustered over dried chicken leg**

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