

**Plant bug guarding eggs and offspring and shooting  
anal jets (*Physomerus grossipes* F., *Coreidae*).**

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In a garden at Singora (= Songklá) in South Siam I saw on  $24/8$  1940 many couples of rather a big bug in mating on a bush (*Ipomæa* sp. (*Convolvulaceae*), as kindly determined from my collected leaves and flowers by Dr. O. Hagerup). The thighs of the males were thick and thorny. The couples were rather sluggish, and as a rule they were found sitting with their hind parts joined, although the mating started with the male mounting the female.

$3/10$  and  $20/10$  there were not so many matings. Three females were seen sitting each on top of its eggs, no doubt guarding them. A male was sitting close by, at least in one of these cases. When I touched one of these females, or adults in other parties, they stretched their hind legs. The eggs were in all three cases besieged by tiny flies which appeared to attempt to deposit their eggs on the bug's eggs. When I removed one of the guarding bugs, one of the flies went to the eggs and sat on them.

There were numerous nymphs in large parties, often of widely different body size within the parties, and most of the parties included an adult male and an adult female. It is possible that it is primarily the mother that stays with the offspring and that the male is merely attracted by the female. For in some cases there was with the nymphs only a female, and no male near; and mating was seen in one of the couples.

When the twig was touched, the animals moved their antennae in jerks; and queer enough, often to time. Fine jets of fluid came from the anal ends of some of the individuals; I do not know whether only from some of the developmental stages. This is probably a sort of defence. An odour much like that of ethyl acetate, which I smelt on such occasions possibly came from those jets.

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