

CATTLE EGRET FORAGING ON ARJUN (*TERMINALIA ARJUNA*) TREE TOP

N. C. Nandi* and Rina Nandi

Social Environmental and Biological Association (SEBA), Kolkata; *Email:
nepalchandra.nandi@gmail.com

On April 19, 2021, ten cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were found foraged on the canopy of an Arjun tree (*Terminalia arjuna*) in Kolkata city suburban area. This species was usually found to feed in this locality on the playground, along the roadside grasslands and along the water edge of ponds and on the aggregated floating wastes of a canal. The unusual scene of foraging on insects from atop a tall Arjun tree attracted the attention of one of us (RN) and thus took a shot of them (Fig. 1). Next day their number rose to 15, *i.e.*, one and a half fold, while on the third day only one egret was located for five minutes only, perhaps there was no attraction of nectar for insects or due to deflowering. The cattle egrets usually feed on a variety of prey, particularly insects and spiders, as well as frogs, lizards and earthworms (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cattle_egret; Siegfried, 1971). They have rarely been reported foraging along the branches of a banyan tree for ripe figs (Chaturvedi, 1993). In West Bengal, they are normally found foraging with cattle in the grasslands, cultivated fields in post-harvest season and also following plough and power tillers. However, herein, they were spotted actively feeding in the early morning hours on a newly flowering *Terminalia arjuna* tree, hence the present report.



Fig. 1. Cattle egret foraging on tree top

References

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LEAF CURLING OF A BAKUL TREE (*MIMUSOPS ELENGI*) IN KOLKATA

N. C.Nandi

Social Environmental and Biological Association (SEBA); Kolkata

Email: nepalchandra.nandi@gmail.com

A Bakul tree (*Mimusops elengi*), located at S. M. Nagar Kolkata 700143, was found immensely affected in April 2021 due to curling of leaves, particularly newer ones found folding of leaf blades along with yellowing of the affected portion of leaf and curling of the mid ribs (Figs. 1-3). On closer inspection, it was revealed that an insect colony (possibly thrips) with all its life cycle stages was observed merrily thriving inside the inner fold of leaf blade (Figs. 4-5). A spider species was also found with sheet its web, arrived to predate on these insects. Possibilities of fungus infection cannot be excluded.

This is brought to my notice by Rina Nandi and photographic help by Anjan Kumar Nandy, while insect recognition help was received from Dr. Tarun Kumar Pal and Dr. Ashis Kumar Hazra, both Entomologist and Emeritus Scientist, ZSI; requesting publication in the interest of science of Plant Pathology.

