

DO HORNTAIL SNAILS *MACHROCLAMYS INDICA* SWALLOW NEEM LEAVES?**N. C. Nandi* and Rina Nandi**

Social Environmental and Biological Association, Kolkata

*Email: nepalchandra.nandi@gmail.com

Horntail snail (*Machroclamys indica*, Family Ariophantidae, Gastropoda: Mollusca) is a species of pestiferous land snail known for eating plant food from fallows and agricultural garden in India (Raut and Ghose, 1983, 1984). This snail species was found active and apparently eating fresh neem leaves from twigs (Figs. 1-3) cut and kept on the ground at Gopalpur area of Sarkarpool, under Maheshtala Police Station, West Bengal. The present report of eating bitter tasted neem leaves (Fig. 3) is unnatural, intriguing, and hence communicated to attract the attention of researchers of pestiferous land snail to reveal the truth of active eating through intensive observation and gut content analysis. Since plenty of various plant foods are available in the locality, these snails are not forced to eat bitter tasted neem leaves. Thus, eating of neem leaves by this snail species in the Gangetic West Bengal; if it comes true may suggest its modified feeding habit towards bitter taste!



Fig. 1 and 2. Active snail on neem leaves from West Bengal. **Fig. 3.** Perforated neem leaves

References

Raut, S. K. and Ghose, K. C. 1983. Food preference and feeding behavior of two pestiferous snails, *Achatina fulica* Bowdich and *Machroclamys indica* Godwin-Austen. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, **80**: 421-440.

Raut, S. K. and Ghose, K. C. 1984. *Pestiferous land snails of India*. Zoological survey of India, pp.1-151.