gourd genotypes was based on pooled per cent infestation. Out of 20 sponge gourd genotypes, only two *viz.,* SKNSG-11 and SKNSG-17 were found resistant against fruit flies (Damage < 29.80%). Whereas, SKNSG-5, SKNSG-14 and SKNSG-20 were susceptible to fruit flies (Damage = >46.22%). Rest of the genotypes (15) showed moderate resistant ones against fruit flies, where the damage ranged between 29.80 and 46.22 per cent. Different genotypes showed different reaction to the fruit flies attack. It was observed during the course of study that colour of fruits of SKNSG-11 was yellowish green compared to dark green of SKNSG-5 which may be more preferred for oviposition. Thus, SKNSG-11 and SKNSG-17 genotypes of sponge gourd may be included in breeding programme for developing resistant variety of sponge gourd against this pest. Gogi *et. al.,* (2009) in Pakistan, also reported below 20.00 per cent infestation in bitter gourd genotypes *viz.,* Col-11 and FSD-long and suggested it as a source of resistant for developing fruit fly resistant variety.

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Mealy Bug *[Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley (Homoptera : Pseudococcidae)] – A Serious Pest of Tobacco in Gujarat

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In India, tobacco is mainly cultivated in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamilnadu. Among these, bidi tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.) and chewing tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica* L.) are largely cultivated in Gujarat. Tobacco being a long duration crop, passes through various biotic stresses like insect pests causing quantitative and qualitative damage. Recently, tobacco has been also found to be attacked by mealy bug, *Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley; a major species occurring on cotton in middle Gujarat (Jhala *et. al.,* 2008). It has short to medium sized waxy filaments around the body; two dark stripes on either sides of middle “ridge” and absence of long tail. This species produces an egg mass or ovisac. *P. solenopsis* being a polyphagous pest, feeds on a number of field crops and weeds. It harbours throughout the year on weeds host and spread after preferred host crop appear in field. Under severe infestation, this pest was first noticed on parasitic weed of tobacco, Broomrape (*Orobanche ceranua* Loef). Another weed appeared on

irrigation channels locally known as “Bala” (*Sida acuta* Burm.f) was also found to be attacked by this pest.

Different weed hosts of *P. solenopsis* were identified by Jhala *et. al.* (2008). Ant carries crawlers from one to another plant within the field. In tobacco, at initial stage mealy bug attached themselves to underneath of lower leaves and suck the cell sap. It is paradoxical that tobacco, which yields nicotine an effective insecticide suffers from damage by aphid and mealy bug. This is because of selective feeding in phloem (Gopalchari, 1984). Dhavan *et al.,* 2008). The infested leaves of tobacco showed sickly appearance, dried out before maturity and quality of leaf also deteriorated. A survey conducted in Anand in March 2009 indicated the presence of hymenopterans parasitoid, *Aenasius* sp (Chaeidodea: Aphelinidae) on *P. solenopsis.* Its parasitism on tobacco range from 6.25-29.94% (Average 13.8%). Parasitized mealy bug turned to reddish brown, loss of white mealy powder from their mummified body. Same parasitoid was also observed on other than tobacco and weeds host of *P. solenopsis* (Tanwar *et al.,* 2008 and Jhala *et. al.,* 2009).

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Aberrant Behavior of *Heterotermes indicola* (Wasmann) in Constructing Hanging Food Tunnels

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Heterotermes is endemic to most tropical regions of the world. In India, five species of *Heterotermes* are found among which *H. indicola* (Wasmann) is very common termite around North Bengal region of Himalayan Terai. This genus is a structure-infesting termite causing significant damage. At the University of North Bengal campus, *Heterotermes indicola* has been found to destroy building, wooden structures, furniture, books and papers. A preliminary observation has