

RESEARCH ARTICLE

First report of *Lycoriella* sp. on oyster mushroom from North East India

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ABSTRACT

A new dipteran pest, fungus gnat (*Lycoriella* sp.) was recorded on oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus* Jacq.ex Fr.) during the month of April–May, 2012. A single larva could damage 20-35 per cent of a fruit body within 3-4 days of infestation. In severe infestations, it damaged 70-80 per cent of the fruit bodies in mushroom beds. Hence, looking at severity of infestation, certain aspects of its biology were studied under laboratory condition (Temperature 27-31°C, RH 82-88%). The female laid round, white or translucent eggs singly or in groups on the upper part as well as stalk of the mushroom fruit bodies. The pre- and post oviposition and incubation period periods were 5-6 days, 2-3 days and 3-4 days, respectively. Maggots were white in colour and vermiform, with a conical head possessing a pair of sclerotized, black and pointed mandibles. There were four larval instars and total larval period was 10-13 days. The body length of the instars I, II, III and IV were 4.06±0.22 mm, 5.46 mm±0.12 mm, 8.56 ±0.00 mm and 9.60±0.01 mm, respectively Pupae were coarctate, brown in colour, 9.20±0.02 mm in length and pupal period was 3 days. The adult fly had a shiny black head, long antennae, long legs and transparent thin wings with distinct venation.

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