



**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & ALLIED INDUSTRIES**

# ENT-121: Fundamentals of Entomology

## Lecture 2: History of Entomology in India:

Our earliest knowledge about insects dates back to 6000 yrs as our Indian ancestors were well versed in the art of rearing silk worms and weaving silk cloth. Entomology in modern India must have taken its place in Natural History some time after the 16th century.

-From the advent of the early Christian Missions and the establishment of East India Company at Calcutta.

-Entomology in India during 1900-1950.

**1758-** The beginning of the modern era of Indian Entomology came with the publication of the tenth edition of **Carl Linnaeus's "Systema Naturae"**. This contained the earliest record of 28 species of Indian insects. The first entomologist who made any extensive study of Indian Insects was J.C. Fabricius he classified the insects in to 13 orders based on type of mouth parts.

**1767-1779- J.G. Koenig**, a student of Carl Linnaeus and friend of Fabricius, for the first time during the 18th century collected number of insects from Coromandel area and Southern Peninsular India and his collections were studied and named by **Professor Linnaeus** himself. He also published **A Special Account of the Termites of Thanjavur District**. Fabricius, made Koenig's name remembered for ever by naming the well-known and destructive red cotton bug of this country as *Dysdercus koenigi*.

1782 - Dr. Kerr published on account of lac insect.

1785- Asiatic Society of Bengal started in Calcutta.

1799- Dr. Horsfield, an American doctor and first Keeper of the East India Museum published his famous book "**A catalogue of the Lepidopterous Insects**" in the Museum of the East India Company.

1875- Foundation of the "Indian Museum" at Calcutta.

1883- "Bombay Natural History Society" was started.

1883- Commencement of "Fauna of British India" series under the editorship of W.T. Blandford.

1892- Entomological part of the "Fauna of British India" (now Fauna of India) series started with Sir George Hampson contributed first of the four volumes on the moths of India.

1889-1903 Indian Museum, Calcutta published the "Indian Museum Notes

1901- Lionel de Nicevelle was posted as the first entomologist to the Government of India

1903- Professor Maxwell Lefroy succeeded Nicevelle as Government Entomologist.

1905- Establishment of Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa, Bihar and Professor Lefroy became the first Imperial Entomologist.

**1906- 'Indian Insect Pests' by Professor Lefroy.**

**1909- "Indian Insect Life"- Professor Lefroy.**

Madras, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh appointed their first State/Provincial Government Entomologists in 1912, 1919 and 1922 respectively.

1912- Plant Quarantine Act was enforced.

**1914- Destructive Insects and Pests Act was enforced.**

1914- T.B. Fletcher, the first Government Entomologist of Madras State, published his book "**Some South Indian Insects**".

1914- 'Indian Forest Insects of Economic Importance: Coleoptera' was published by the first Imperial Forest Entomologist E.P. Stebbing

1916- Imperial Forest Research Institute was established at Dehra Dun, and E.P. Stebbing was appointed as Forest Zoologist.

1916- The Natural History Section of the Indian Museum was formed as the Zoological Survey of India.

**1934- Hem Singh Pruthi** succeeded Fletcher as Imperial Entomologist, laid foundation of '**Entomological Society of India**' in **1938**. **Afzal Hussain** was the **first President** of the Entomological society of India and the Vice-President were Hem Singh Pruthi and Ramakrishna Ayyar. The official publication of the Society is the '**Indian Journal of Entomology**'.

**1939- Locust Warning Organization was established.**

1940- Dr. T.V. Ramakrishna Ayyar published the book "Handbook of Economic Entomology for South India"

**1963- Text book of Agricultural Entomology by H.S. Pruthi**

**1968- Dr. M.S. Mani's "General Entomology"**

1946- 'Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage' of GOI started.