

Table 1. Emergence of *Pantala flavescens* from the pits.

Date of emergence	No. of <i>P. flavescens</i>	
	Pit A	Pit B
13.viii.1999	1	3
14.viii.1999	-	11
15.viii.1999	-	8
16.viii.1999	-	-
17.viii.1999	-	2

The males of *P. flavescens* were seen holding their mates during oviposition. The eggs were laid randomly on the water surface. Oviposition usually was observed between 0900 and 1030hr. In the rice fields the oviposition was a common spectacle during the months of June-July in 1999. Swarms of *P. flavescens* were seen in the field with water which were in process for land preparation for the rice crop to be transplanted during August 1999.

On the banks of a tank adjacent to Paddy Breeding Station at TNAU, where a number of *Prosopis juliflora* (L.) trees are present, *P. flavescens* were observed to commence their flight around 0700hr. The maximum number of *P. flavescens* were seen flying between 0900 and 1200hr and in the afternoon around 1500hr few were seen hovering around the rice fields. At 1700hr the dragonflies were observed on grasses, bunds and other vegetation.

References

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TREATMENT OF FLY LARVAE INFESTATION IN ELEPHANTS AT NAMERI, ASSAM

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An emergency call from the authority of Nameri National Park, Assam gave us an opportunity to treat ailing elephants. From previous records, it was clear that seven of the 20 elephants had died in spite of treatment given by local veterinarians. Examination of the remaining elephants revealed that the animals were weak and anaemic. It was also found that the entire skin of the elephants showed eruptions of 1cm diameter at 2-3cm apart, giving oily appearance on the erupted areas. A fly larvae could be squeezed out of each erupted area. This confirmed the case of parasitic infestation.

Treatment

All the elephants infested with fly larvae received similar treatment. Each elephant was injected with 21ml Ivermectin subcutaneously as a single injection. They were also treated with i/m injection of chlorpheniramine meclate (@ 30ml / elephant) for three days. Mineral mixture was prescribed to be continued with food for 30 days. All the affected elephants were cured and regained their health gradually.

Thousands of parasitic larvae causing irritation and tissue damage throughout the body of the elephants might have caused excessive histamine release leading to death of seven elephants. Ivermectin was effective in killing the fly larvae and chlorpheniramine neutralized the histamine effect. Mineral mixture was found to be sufficient in rectifying the anaemic status of the elephants. Similar type of skin infestation by fly larvae has been identified as hypoderma in goat (Soni, 1940). The identity of the fly could not be established in this case.

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References

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