A NOTE ON A SPECIES OF *AMORPHOIDEA* ASSOCIATED WITH THE INFLORESCENCES OF *COCOS NUCIFERA* LINN.

By

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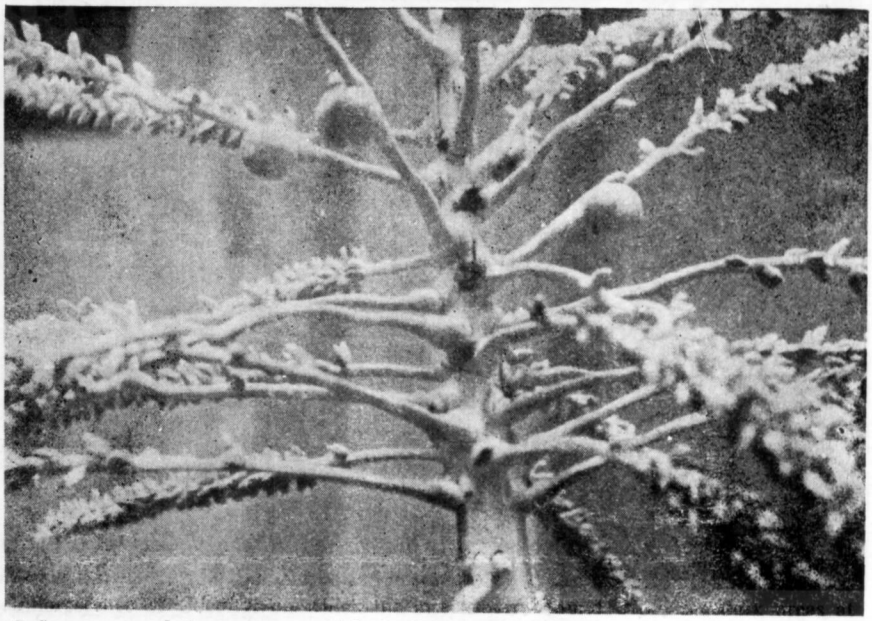
Woodworth (1922) recorded *Amorphoidea lata* Motsch as a pest of cotton in the Philippines. *A. rufa* was found to be a pest on the same crop in Cambodia by Hutache (1929). *A. pectoralis* has been recorded by Marshal (1937) in Java, by Silayan (1937) in the Philippines and by Dresner (1950) in Indonesia. Cherian and Magabandhu (1942) found *A. arcuata* Motsch in India. Jotisalikara (1938) recorded a species of *Amorphoidea* in Thailand and Hutson (1932) recorded a species of *Amorphoidea* on the flowering shoots and tender leaves of mango in Ceylon. With the exception of Hutson, all other previous workers found *Amorphoidea* on the flowers and bolls of cotton, causing shedding of young bolls. It is not indicated whether the species on mango causes any appreciable damage.

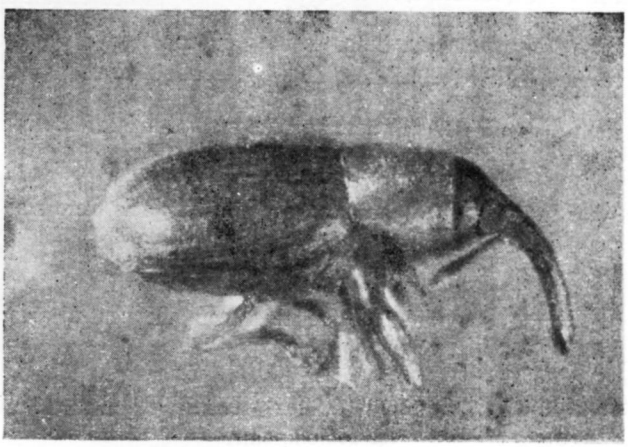
The writer now records the occurrance of a species of *Amorphoidea* on the inflorescences of adult coconut palms. The insects were found on inflorescences collected from Kirimetiya Estate, Elpitiya in the Southern Province of Ceylon. There were somewhat circular dark areas, about 1 cm. in diameter, at the points of attachment of the lower spikelets and the central axis of the inflorescence. The tissue in these areas had been destroyed and cavities extended into the central axis. On further examination, larvae of *Amorphoidea* were found in these cavities. The adult weevils were also found to be feeding in the cavities.

In rare instances, the wounds separated the spikelets from the central axis; and this may result in a slight reduction in the number of nuts in individual palms. *Amorphoidea* cannot be considered to be an important pest of coconut and any damage caused by it appears to be at sub-economic levels.

Species of *Amorphoidea* have been recorded by previous workers on cotton and mango and a species is now recorded on coconut.



Inflorescence of Coconut on which the insects were found. Note the dark areas at the points of attachment of the spikelets.



Amorphoidea sp.

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