



The third and the fourth Shodh Yatra (journey of exploration) were organised during 15th May to 23rd May 1999 and 26th December, 1999 to 2nd January 2000 in Narmada and Kutch region respectively. The most notable part of third Shodh Yatra was journey across and along Narmada river for some part and the forest in the southern Gujarat in the remaining part. The multimedia local language database shown to the local communities continue to attract attention particularly of local women, farmers, artisans and workers besides the posters on sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. The detailed report of both the Shodh Yatra will be presented in the next issue of Honey Bee.

The Yatra in Kutch was eventful because of the variety of embroidered dresses designed and made by women primarily for their own ceremonial and social-cultural use. Some of the outstanding innovations that were scouted during both the *Shodh Yatra* included a cycle sprayer, a handicapped wizard Shri Dhanjibhai Laljibhai Kerai, who designed an arrangement in a scooter to drive it all by himself despite his inability to use his legs.

Profile of Shri Dhanjibhai will follow in the next issue. The innovative farmers who joined the *Shodh Yatra* were quite charged by the experience and it was suggested that next summer *Shodh Yatra* may be in Panchmahals.

We invite Honey Bee readers to join the *Shodh Yatra*. From winter 2000 onwards we will be organising such *Shodh Yatras* in other parts of the country. S. H. Shukhla 22 A Dialogue on People's Creativity & Experimentation Honey Bee Vol 10(4) October-December 1999

Not just a newsletter any more ! Prayag Mehta

*Participation and Development Centre C-8/
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I was so glad to get the latest issue of Honey Bee, I had seen it earlier also some years ago. This issue, therefore, gives an idea of how much field you have already covered. From a newsletter it has now become a very important source of information and serious research material. I do hope you would also bring out the traditional wisdom in social innovations such as for team work, sharing resources and in overcoming various problems in daily life. This would



help in understanding how people are trying to meet the emerging influence of the market forces on their life. (Thank you, we on our part are trying to share the traditional knowledge and contemporary innovations of the farmers all across the globe and trying to provide a platform to those who have not been heard before. Your suggestion about social innovation is very good. We do publish institutional innovations from time to time :Ed)

Could it be mimicry?

Asad Rehmani

Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay – 400 023

Recently in the newsletter Honey Bee Vol. 10 (3), I read your interesting observation of the Red-wattled Lapwing using leaves of *Indoneesilla echinoides* incident. Are you sure, the bird intentionally used the leaves of this plant, the extract of which is used in snake bite. It is likely that this plant happened to be seen near the nest of Red-wattled Lapwing and in a conflict situation when the bird did not know what to do, it just plucked the leaves of the nearest shrub. Many animals when they or their eggs/chicks are threatened, show distraction display. In conflict situation they also indulge in displacement activity, such as throwing pebbles, pretending to feed etc.

(We had this information from Miss Topno and the observer was quite sure that the

bird could identify the plant. May be animals do have that kind of sense and very few of us have such keen sense of observation. But we are awaiting Miss Topno's answer to your question. :Ed) Should we not pay for unique knowledge !

Vasuki Belavadi

Deccan Development Society,
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Farmers in Andhra Pradesh practising agriculture near hillocks and forest suffer a major problem of wild boars that bulldoze their fields after sunset.

Farmers have tried using electric fences, trenches. They have also tried keeping watch and using fires during nights but in vain. They say the extract of a plant when applied to a rope and tied around the fields keeps the wild boars away. But the 'elder' farmers do not reveal the name of the plant and charge heavily for the same. Can some enlightened farmer provide a panacea to this problem?

(But why not we respect the IPR's of the elders ? What is wrong in paying to these elderly knowledge experts for their knowledge ? What else, except knowledge , is really left with these elders ? :Ed)



Lack of sensitivity !

Mrs. Rosalie Malik

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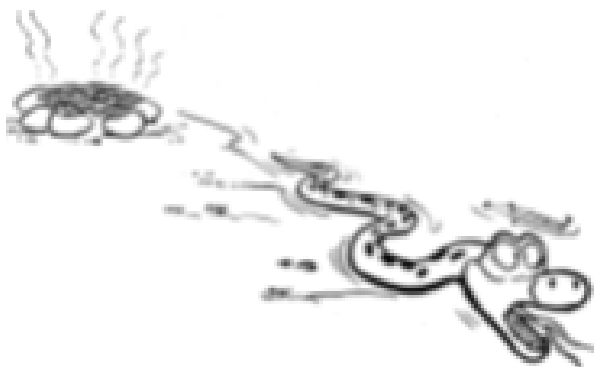
I was very shocked that you printed the method of poisoning "Nilgai" with sulphose tablet in guava as a solution to stopping the animals raiding the orchard. It is really criminal to poison animals to a very painful death. They also have a right to life-and to eat. I don't see how they can destroy a whole orchard, guava trees are big and they cannot climb trees.

Granted they are a nuisance, wolves are not a good idea. Just keep a couple of good fierce dogs to chase them away. People are the worst predators for our mango crops, but we keep dogs and no one dares enter the orchard. Dogs are very efficient deterrent.

I have also read that cut hair (from barbers) is a great deterrent to stop deer feeding on trees in an orchard. The hair is mixed in compost beneath the trees. This technique can as well work for Nilgai. All animals have a right to eat what God is producing, so we should not kill them for sake of our profit, although we could discourage them from damaging crops. (*mea culpa ! We are guilty of this lapse. We will certainly take care to avoid publishing any practice which causes violence to wildlife. We also hope that other readers grappling with similar problem will also write to us. :Ed*)

Information required !

Jovanny Bermudez *Student of biology, University of Tolima, Colombia* I would like a big favour from



you. Do you have any information on the 'giant milkweed' plant (*Calotropis procera*)

Will you stand by the IPRs of peasants? 23 Honey Bee Vol 10(4) October-December-1999 especially as it relates to secondary metabolisms that have been found in this plant ? Or allelopathic studies with other plants? I need this information for my thesis which is on extraction of secondary metabolisms for developing biological pesticides for rice pests, a big problem that affects our region. That's why a group of students in agronomy of our university are experimenting with extracts from the 'giant milkweed' (*Calotropis procera*) for pests in rice.

(We have already sent a copy of Napralert information on the subject by email to you. We are also sending you various practices from our database. Please keep us informed about the results you get in your experiments. Also please keep up your interests in non-chemical pest management.

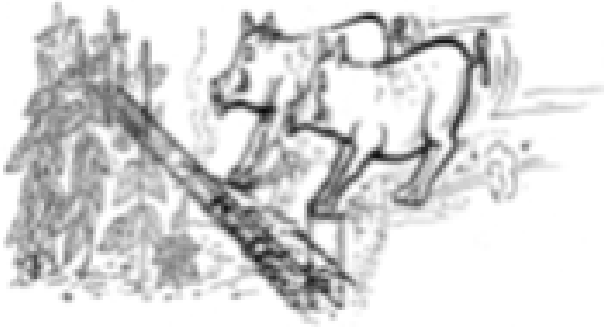
May be Indian scientists will start working on this plant after reading your success in Mexico. So it be. :Ed)

Means to an end Asad Rehmani *Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay - 400023*

I was intrigued to note about poisoning of Nilgai by villagers by placing sulphose tablets in guava fruits. This news item is published in Honey Bee Vol. 10 (3) July- Sept. 1999. We feel that its population should be controlled as it is proving to be menace. The method employed by villagers of Mainpuri appears to be very interesting. I feel that if the situation demands, we do not oppose killing of problem animals, such as Nilgai, Wild boar, man - eating tiger etc.

(Agreed that the balance between prey predator needs to be maintained, could we not think of other alternatives than these cruel ones? Are we humans not primarily the cause of such gross imbalance in the food chain, we need to find the root cause of overcoming the imbalance. We don't intend to publish methods that cause death to wildlife in future no matter what provocations! We regret having published this practice. After all, Nilgais would not attack the crop if they had enough area to browse on their own. :Ed)

Organic Alternative Rana Harishchandrasinhji Kiran, Jambhoda, Panchmahal - 389 390 Gujarat



Would you please let me know, if the Fukuoka and Permaculture systems, suitably modified, are being practised at all in Gujarat and whether they are successful in our climatic conditions.

I would like to have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the people those who are practising either of the systems in Gujarat, particularly in the neighbouring districts of Panchmahal. *Acacia catechu*: On my farm at Jambughoda in the early 1970s I had planted the above species as a possible hedge. This is now in the process of becoming a pest and needs to be selectively destroyed by economically viable organic methods. Should you have any experience in this context please inform me about the method to be adopted. I may note that there are inorganic pesticides which can be used for the purpose but I do not wish to use them unless there is no organic alternative available.

S Collection of honey - Currently, in Jambughoda and the neighbouring areas honey is collected generally by destroying bees and hives, which I think is a great pity. I have been making persistent enquiries as to how this could be avoided and honey collected from naturally made hives.

S Commercial tapping or de-barking trees for resins/ barks- Species like the 'karaya' (*Sterculia urens*) for gum and 'arjuna' (*Terminalia arjuna*) in Jambughoda and probably elsewhere in Gujarat as well, have been virtually wiped out owing to excessive tapping or removal of bark. I wonder whether there are methods for tapping/de-barking trees to ensure that such species attain their normal life spans and at the same time give, on a regular basis, the products for which they are valued. It would be helpful, if you could please let me have the names and addresses of suppliers in Panchmahals or Vadodara about the availability of good quality seed and saplings for agricultural and forest species. (You may contact the Agriculture University Research station, Panchmahal. They seem to have done a lot in the field of Agrihorticulture. Ayurvedic department in Gandhinagar has a nursery to provide medicinal plants. Regarding the rest, we hope network readers will get in touch with you. Please keep up your efforts. There are lot of organic farmers in Gujarat and you should really buy all the back issues of Honey Bee to update yourself on that: Ed)

