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**Control of Sugarcane Leaf Hopper *Pyrilla perpusilla* by  
*Fulgoraecia (Epiricania) melanoleuca* Fletcher  
(Lepidoptera: Epipyropidae) in the Seed cane Nursery  
at Kantale, Sri Lanka**

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The sugarcane leaf hopper *Pyrilla perpusilla* Walker (Homoptera: Lophopidae) which was once a serious pest in sugarcane and was brought under control by introducing its nymphal and adult ecto-parasitoid, *Fulgoraecia (Epiricania) melanoleuca* Fletcher (Lepidoptera: Epipyropidae) from Pakistan in 1992, seriously infested the newly-established seed cane nursery in 2013 and 2015 at Kantale, in the Eastern Province of, Sri Lanka. *F.melanoleuca* collected from sugarcane plantations at Pelwatte in the Uva Province of Sri Lanka was introduced fortnightly from 1 April to 31 June 2013 and from 1 June to 31 September 2015. Approximately 115 sugarcane clumps of the variety SL 89 1673 of 5-6 months age, with a high level of infestation of *P. perpusilla* were selected for introducing 1,207,500 eggs and 16,100 cocoons of the parasitoid by attaching ten cocoons and five egg masses to the lower side of the leaves in each clump. Pre-release and post-release population levels of the *P. perpusilla* and *F. melanoleuca* were recorded at monthly intervals from January 2013 to March 2018. For the data collection, five nursery plots, 0.5 ha each, were selected and twenty sugarcane plants (5-12 months old) were randomly selected from each plot. All the leaves of the selected sugarcane plants were observed, and data on the number of nymphs and adults of *P. perpusilla* and the number of cocoons of *F. melanoleuca* were recorded. The average level of the population of *P. perpusilla* and *F. melanoleuca* per in the plant were estimated. The spread of *Pyrilla* in the nursery could be successfully contained in five to eight months after release of the ecto-parasitoid, without resorting to application of chemicals which are harmful to the environment. By the year 2017, successful establishment of *F. melanoleuca* was observed with nearly 8 cocoons per plant.

