First Report of the Aphid, *Amphorophora ampullata* (Homoptera: Aphididae) on the Fern, *Hypolepis polypodioides* (Hypolepidaceae) from Western Himalayas (India). —The fern, *Hypolepis polypodioides* (Blume) Hook (Hypolepidaceae) is a common fern throughout the Western Himalayas from 1000-2000 m altitude growing on moist and wet places or along open roadsides near water channels. Globally, *H. polypodioides* is distributed in America, Bhutan, China, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan and Tibet. In India, it is distributed in North-West and Eastern Himalaya (Darjeling hills, Meghalaya, Khasi hills, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur), North-West Himalaya (Kishtwar and Kathua areas of Jammu) and Himachal Pradesh (Dharamshala, Palampur, Dalhousie, Chamba, Kullu, Manali and Shimla hills) (Khullar, An illustrated Fern Flora of West Himalaya, 1:250-253. 1994).


Among different insect pests reported on ferns, sucking pests cause more damage indirectly by sucking the plant sap, whereas beetles and caterpillars cause direct damage (defoliation) by feeding (Birkenhead, 1892; Hendrix, Amer. Nat. 115(2):171–196. 1980). To our knowledge there are no published reports of herbivory by insects on *H. polypodioides*. However, during frequent visits to the IHBT Fernery to study the impact of insect on different ferns, an infestation of the aphid, *Amphorophora ampullata* Buckton on *H. polypodioides* was noticed. To study the incidence of *A. ampullata* in the experimental plot (20 sq. m), 20 fronds were randomly selected for sampling. The number of *A. ampullata* (nymphs and adults) was counted on five randomly selected pinnae/frond and represented as number of aphids/pinna. Infestation of *A. ampullata* on *H. polypodioides* was first observed during last week of August 2012 (7.3 aphids/pinna). The infestation increased gradually...