

## INTRODUCTION •

The term “Lac” derived from the Sanskrit word “Laksha” meaning a hundred thousand and is suggestive of the large number of insects involved in its production.

- The description of the insect and its host plant (Food plant) – Palas (Lakshataru) is recorded in the Atharva Veda.

- It is mentioned in the Mahabharata mentioned lakhagriha or Jadugriha (Lac house) which the Kauravas had got construct to burn alive the Pandavas by setting the lac palace on fire.

- The first scientific account of the lac insect was given by J. Kerr in 1782.

- Classification of Lac insect

- Phylum – Arthropoda

- Class – Insecta

- Order – Hemiptera

- Family – Kerriidae

- Genus – Kerria

- Species – lacca]

- Lac is produced by an insect Laccifer lacca. Rearing of lac insects for commercial production of the lac is called as lac culture.

- . Why Lac Cultivation ?

- A good source of livelihood resource for poor farmers. Avoids migration of rural population to urban areas.

- Assured source of income during drought years.

- Require meager inputs (like water, pesticides etc.)

- Most suitably grown on marginal and degraded land.

- .- No competition with other horticultural, agricultural crops for land and farm operation.

- Do not harm host tree health neither other flora and fauna.

- India is highest lac producing country in world near about 65% of total lac production seen in India. • Economic Importance of lac culture: 1. Lac is used in preparing a Bangles. 2. Lac is used in preparation of toys. 3. Lac is used in the preparation of inks and polishes. 4. Lac is used in wood work and for making ornamental things. 5. Lac is used in process of silvering the back of mirror. 6. Government of India has started research work in 1921 and established Indian Lac Research Institute at Ranchi in Bihar in 1925 (Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums).

- • India is still being regarded as the principal lac producing country of the world.

- • Lac currently produced in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

- • India produces about 65% of the world's total output. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh account for 40% of India's total production of lac.