

BIOLOGY OF TOBACCO CATERPILLAR, *SPODOPTERA LITURA* FAB. ON DIFFERENT HOSTS AND ANTIFEEDANT EFFECT OF PLANT PRODUCTS ON IT

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Abstract: *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) is polyphagous pest damaging numerous crops in India and many other countries. Moths are found primarily active during night and due to its high mobility, female ovipositing on a wide range of host plants. There have been a number of studies on the biological parameters of *S. litura* on different host plants under different environmental conditions, particularly in India. Artificial diet reared tobacco caterpillar showed higher pupation (89.2%), emergence (97.2%), survival (86.6%) and fecundity (2486.2 eggs) as compared to the most preferred natural food. Out of 24 weed plants tested, high consumption of leaves was recorded on eight species. Dietary concentrations of azadirachtin although significantly lowered the efficiencies of conversion of both ingested (ECI) and digested (ECD) food, it failed to lower the approximate digestibility (AD).

Keywords: Biology, Host, *Spodoptera litura*, Tobacco caterpillar, Weeds

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