

INCIDENCE OF LEAF WEBBER (*DIAPHANIA PULVERULENTALIS*) ON MULBERRY – A STUDY

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Abstract: Leaf webber is one of the major leaf eating pests of Mulberry, the only food source of Silkworm *Bombyx mori* L. Especially during post rainy season in the months of November to January this pest is becoming a major problem in the sericulture areas. This pest lays one or two eggs on each and every leaf of mulberry and the young larvae secrete a silky and gluey substance that binds both the ends of the leaf and make a roll and reside inside the rolled leaf and feed on the leaf. The infestation is resulting in the shortage of leaf for silkworm rearing during this season. Hence the present study which is aimed to find out the intensity of infestation and qualitative loss, helps in taking timely measures to reduce the leaf webber infestation.

Keywords: Leaf webber, Mulberry leaf, Qualitative loss, Infestation levels

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