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COLOUR PREFERENCE BY *SPODOPTERA LITURA* (FAB.) FOR EGG LAYING

During mass culturing of *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) folded papers or leaf of castor or other materials is provided for egg laying. To know about the colour preference of *Spodoptera* for egg laying the present experiment was planned during Kharif and Rabi 2010–2011 twice. Rearing of *Spodoptera* was undertaken on the castor leaves as described by Nemade (2010). Seven paired *Spodoptera* moth during each experiment were released on six different colour papers i.e. black, pink, yellow, green, saffron and white which were selected for study. The papers were cut, folded and kept in oviposition chamber. Such five replications were made by placing the above colour papers randomly.

The data showed that the *Spodoptera* female moth does not have preference to white colour. No egg masses and eggs were observed on white colour paper during both the experiments conducted in the laboratory. The saffron colour was also not preferred for egg laying by the female on which only 1.8 egg masses were observed.

Table 1. Average egg masses and eggs obtained from each colour paper provided for egg laying.

S. No.	Average number of masses	Average eggs collected from each colour paper
Black	44.2	466.6
Pink	07.0	480.2
Yellow	11.4	510.2
Green	07.8	312.4
Saffron	01.8	199.0
White	0.0	000.0
F test	Sig	Sig
SE(m)±	1.90	32.29
CD 5%	5.57	94.25

The study also indicates that maximum number of small egg masses 44.2 were observed on black colour where as the yellow, green and pink colour had less egg masses i.e. 11.4, 7.8 and 7.0, respectively. But those egg masses contained more eggs and were bigger in size as compared to those found on black paper.

Maximum numbers of eggs 510.2 were observed on yellow colour paper followed by pink colour 480.2 but significantly at par. Though the numbers of egg masses were more in black colour paper but only 466.6 eggs were observed, which was significantly less than yellow colour. The numberof eggs laid on green and saffron coloured paper were 312.4 and 199.0 respectively. Thus it can be concluded that in laboratory for egg laying, *Spodoptera* female moth should be provided with yellow colour paper to get maximum eggs, in bunches.

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