

PESTS AND DISEASES

Q. Topic: Pests of silkworm: Uzi fly, dermestid beetles and vertebrates

Pests of silkworm	Nature of damage	Control measures
<p>Indian Uzi fly (<i>Tricholyga bombycis</i> & <i>Exorista sorbillans</i>)</p> 	<p>i) Eggs of uzi fly are deposited on the early instar larvae and the silkworm dies before pupation.</p> <p>ii) If eggs are laid on late larvae, they may pupate and form normal cocoons but in due course, the uzi maggot comes out of the silk cocoon by cutting it, causing the death of the silkworm pupa and deactivation of the perforated cocoon results.</p>	<p>i) The doors and windows of the rearing room must be guarded with a nylon net of fine mesh to prevent the entry of the uzi fly.</p> <p>ii) Spraying of Uzicide (developed by CSR and TI, Mysore) is helpful.</p> <p>iii) Vijeta is a uzicide used to kill eggs without affecting the silkworm growth.</p> <p>iii) Biological control by hymenopteran pupal parasites—<i>Brachymeria lugubris</i>, <i>Nesolynx thymers</i> etc. are helpful.</p>
<p>Dermestid beetles</p> 	<p>i) Attack pierced cocoons in cocoon storage rooms. The female beetles lay about 150-250 eggs in the folds of cocoons.</p> <p>ii) The beetles migrate from cocoon storage rooms to grainage and attack green cocoons as well as moths also.</p> <p>iii) They generally attack the abdominal region of the moth.</p>	<p>i) Storage of rejected cocoons and perished eggs for a long period should be avoided.</p> <p>ii) Rearing house and cocoon storage rooms should be cleaned periodically.</p> <p>iii) Wooden articles of storage room and grainage should be dipped in 0.2% malathion solution for 2-3 minutes.</p> <p>iv) Store pierced cocoons (PC) in deltamethrin treated bags (soak the bags in 0.028% deltamethrin solution) and dry in shade.</p> <p>iv) Sprinkle bleaching powder (200gms/sq.mt) all around the inner wall of PC to prevent crawling of grubs from PC room.</p>
<p>Some larger predatory vertebrate animals like, rats, squirrels, birds</p>	<p>They may enter the rearing room to feed the larvae or pupae.</p>	<p>Their entry may be prevented by putting wire mesh on the windows and holes of rearing rooms.</p>