SUPPLEMENTARY DIET - RICE PORRIDGE ON GROWTH PARAMETERS OF MULTIVOLTINE SILKWORM *BOMBYX MORI. L*

*(Lepidoptera: Bombycidace)*

1Vijaya kumar.P(Reserch Scholar).,2 Raja Jeya Sekar, R.,3Radhakrishnan Nair.C., 4  Vijila, S. M 1,2,3,4 PG & Research Department of Zoology, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil- 629002. 4 Department of Zoology, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil- 629003.

**ABSTRACT**

The present study was conducted to find the impacts of MR-2 mulberry leaf (*Morus indica*) supplemented with rice porridge to study the development of 5th stage mulberry silkworm *(Bombyx mori* L) The rearing of mulberry silkworm on natural habitat is time consuming. To overcome these obliges, the silkworms were reared with fortified supplementary diet - rice porridge. These diets enhanced the growth of silkworms and the shell ratio of the cocoons. Further, this diet also increased growth rate, weight of silkworms, shell weight, cocoon weight and shell ratio of cocoons. A significant difference was observed in mulberry leaf fortified with rice porridge diet consumed silkworm and unfortified diet consumed silkworms. The growth index of 5th stage mulberry silkworms were comparatively increased and in addition cocoon weight, shell weight and shell ratio were greater in silkworms which were reared under supplementary diet- rice porridge.

Key words: *Morus indica*, Rice porridge, *Bombyx mori L.*