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Research Article



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Impact of fortification of mulberry leaves with homeopathic drugs on economic traits of silkworm *Bombyx mori* L.

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Abstract

In the present study the fifth instar Silkworm larvae, *Bombyx mori* L. were fed on the mulberry leaves fortified with homeopathic drugs Chemidonium, Nux vomica and Phytolacca berry mother tincture. The impact of treatment on larval, cocoon, shell and pupal weight, silk ratio, larval mortality, average filament length, filament weight and denier were investigated.

The results showed that, there was positive impact on most of the characteristics of silkworm *Bombyx mori* L. larvae fed on mulberry leaves fortified with homeopathic drug Chilidonium and Nux vomica, while with Phytolacca berry shows negative impact on most of the economic characters of *Bommbyx mori* L.

Keywords: Bombyx mori, Mulberry leaves, Fortification, Homeopathic drug, Chilidonium, Nux vomica, etc.

Introduction

The nutrition background of the larvae influences greatly on the resulting pupa, adults and silk production. The leaves of superior quality enhance the chances of good cocoon crop. The dietary nutritional management influences directly on quality and quantity of silk production in Bombyx mori L., Muragan, et al., (1998). In recent years, many attempts have been made either to fortify the leaves with nutrients, spraying with antibiotics, juvenile hormone, plant products with JH mimic principles or using extracts of plants etc. to improve the quantity and quality of silk. The fortification or supplementation of nutrients along with natural diet, enrich the nutritional value of the diet, making it more useful from the nutritional point of view, Hippargi,(2001), Sannapa B., et al. (2002). K. Masthan et al. (2017).

It is seen that, there are no attempts made by using the Homoeopathic drugs for improving the status of sericulture industry. In this light for the benefit of common farmers, this is the attempts has been made to find out the effect of Nux vomica, Chelidonium and Phytolacca berry, homoeopathic drugs on the biological parameters of silkworm *Bombyx mori* L. The drug picture is explained nicely by Tyler, (2002). The importance of homoeopathic drugs and their effective sustainable use other than human is explained well by Naveen, (2005) and impact of homeopathic drugs on the silkworm characters were positive on most of the characters was explained by Hiware, (2005), Hiware, 2006).

Materials and Methods

Experimental details

- i) Design : Completely Randomized Design (CRD)
- ii) No. of replication : 3
- iii) Mulberry variety : V1
- iv) Number of treatments : 3

T1= Chelidonium T2= Nux vomica T3= Phytolacca berry

The productive bi x bivoltine hybrid CSR2 x CSR4 was used for evolution of effect of above drugs on biological characters of silkworm.

The experiment was conducted by taking randomly just 4th moult passed i.e. 5th instar larvae in four groups. For each group i.e. one control and three experiments 50 larvae were taken in three replicates. All the groups were exposing to the trial under same environmental condition.

For fortification the mother tincture of Chelidonium, Nux vomica and Phytolacca berry were procured from local Central Homeopathic Pharmacy Shop, Dalalwadi. Aurangabad, M.S. India. The test solutions were prepared by using 10 ml of drug with 40 ml of distilled water was used as stock solution, kept in refrigerator. The quantity of feed given to the all groups with 40 g of matured mulberry chopped leaves for each feed and 4 feedings per day were provided. One group was kept control giving the first feeding by using non treated only distilled water but the experimental group was given first feed sprinkled, mixed with the 2 ml of test solution till the larvae went on spinning. Evaluation was on the basis of larval weight, total mortality, cocoon weight, shell weight, pupal weight, shell ratio, filament weight, filament length and denier. The valves were compared between experimental and control groups in terms of percent change over control.

Results

There was a trend favoring in two treatments with Chelidonium and Nux vomica in more characters observed except cocoon weight, pupal weight and denier of filament in experimental group compared to the control group. The treatment with drug Phytolacca berry showed negative trend in most character except shell ratio percent. The result showed that larval weight was significantly increased in the groups treated with drug Chelidonium (3.387g) and Nux vomica (3.524g), when compared with control group (3.112g) by the values 8.119% and 11.691% respectively. But in the group treated with drug Phytolocca berry larval weight (2.962g) was significantly deceased with values -5.064%. Mortality in control group was 4 in number which similar to Chelidonium and Nux vomica groups, but in group treated with Phytolacca berry mortality was 5 in number. No significant difference between control and experimental groups.

Sr. No	Characters	Control group	Treatment group			Percentage change over control (%)		
•			T1	T2	T3	T1	T2	Т3
1	Larval weight (g)	3.112	.387**	3.524**	.962**	8.119	11.691	-5.064
2	Total mortality	03	03	03	04	00.00	00.00	25.00
3	Cocoon weight (g)	1.804	1.800	1.795	1.772	-0.222	-0.501	-1.805
4	Shell weight	3.60	0.387*	0.392*	0.357	6.976	8.163	-0.840
5	Pupal weight(g)	1.444	1.413	1.403	1.415	-2.193	-2.922	-2.049
6	Shell ratio (%)	19.955	21.50**	21.838**	20.146	7.186	8.622	0.948
7	Filament length (m)	887	998*	1008**	871	11.122	12.003	-1.836
8	Filament weight(g)	0.234	0.268*	0.284*	0.230	12.686	17.605	-1.739
9	Denier	2.374	2.416	2.535	2.376	1.738	6.351	0.084

Table-1: Effect of Chelidonium, Nux vomica and Phytolacca berry drugs on biological characters of silkworm.

* < 0.05; **<0.01; t- test

There was significantly an increased or positive trend shown in the values of different characters viz. shell weight (0.387g), shell ratio percentage (21.50 %), filament length (998m) and filament weight (0.268g) in the group treated with drug Chelidonium over control group by valves 6.976%, 7.186%, 11.122% and 12.686% respectively. More or less similar trend was observed in the group treated with drug Nux vomica regarding characters, shell weight (0.392g), shell ratio percentage (21.828 %), filament length (1008 m) and filament weight (0.284g) over the control group by values 8,163%, 8,622%, 12,003% and 17.605% respectively. Cocoon weight (1.800g), pupal weight (1.413g) and filament denier (2.416) were decreased in the group treated with drug Chelidonium when compared with control group. Similar result was also observed in the group treated with Nux vomica regarding characters cocoon weight (1.795g), pupal weight (1.403g) and filament denier (2.535) when compared to control group with values -0.501%, -2922% and 6.351% respectively. In the group treatment with drug Phytolacca berry showed negative trend for all characters under studied except shell ratio percentage (20.146 %) compared with control group but it was non-significant over control group.

Discussion

The results revealed that, in the group treated with drug Chelidonium significantly increased larval weight (3.387g), shell weight (0.387g), shell ratio percentage (21.50%), filament length (998m) and filament weight (0.268g) over control group except cocoon weight (1.800g), pupal weight (1.413g) and denier of filament (2.416). It was not significant to control group. The similar trend was occurred in the group treated with Nux vomica for all characters; larval weight (3.524g), shell weight (0.392g), shell ratio percentage (21.838 %), filament length (1008 m) and filament weight (0.284g) over control group. The finding of increased larval weight was in line with the finding of Verma, et al., (1963); Rajshekhargouda, et al., (1999); Ray, et al., (2002); Cui, et al., (2003) and Kamalakannani, et al., (2005), Hiware, (2005, 2006), Avhad et al. (2015). The result of increased in shell weight, shell percentage and filament length are in line with Rai, et al., (2000); Sundar, et al., (2003) and partially in line with result of Rajendra Prasad, (2004) but they have used other methods feeding supplementation. The present study of increased most of the characters by fortified leaves with homeopathic drugs Chelidonium and Nux vomica is co-related with Hiware, (2005, 2006).

Filament size increased by 12.686% and length by 11.122% in group treated with Chelidonium and in Nux vomica these were increased by 17.605% and 12.003% respectively. This result is similar to the finding of Kalpana, et al., (2002); Rahmathulla, et al., (2003) by other supplementation methods. In group treated with drug Phytolacca berry showed negative trends of all character except shell ratio percentage (20.146%) over control group by value 0.948, it was not significant.

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