

# Taxonomic Studies on the Lepidopteran Caterpillars Associated with Vegetables in Guntur District

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## ABSTRACT

Different Lepidopteran larvae were collected from various places from Guntur district on vegetables. The larvae were brought to the laboratory reared, preserved and identified. The larvae viz., *Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius), *Earias vittella* (Fabricius), *Plusia peponis* Fabricius, *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee, *Palpita indica* (Saunders), *Isocentris opheltesalis* Walker, *Sphenarches caffer* (Zeller), *Eupterote mollifera* Walker and *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus) were identified and described based on the morphological characters and chaetotaxy of thoracic and abdominal segments especially 3<sup>rd</sup> abdominal segment and arrangement of crochets on the ventral prolegs. For easy identification of these larvae a taxonomic key was prepared with the help of line diagrams of thoracic and abdominal segments.

**Key words :** Lepidopteran Caterpillars, Taxonomy, Vegetables