

Feeding Capacity of Adults and Grubs of Different Morphotypes of *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* Fab.

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ABSTRACT

Grubs and adults of *Cheilomenes sexmaculata* Fab. were important predators of aphids attacking the cowpea crop. Feeding potential of both adults and grubs were studied on cowpea aphid, *Aphis craccivora* Koch. The first, second, third and fourth instars of the grub of all the morphotypes of *C. sexmaculata* were found to consume 7.0 ± 1.07 , 18.85 ± 1.20 , 70.0 ± 1.74 and 173.0 ± 3.53 ; 6.42 ± 0.57 , 15.28 ± 0.91 , 71.42 ± 1.32 and 178.0 ± 3.66 ; 5.85 ± 0.59 , 12.14 ± 0.67 , 70.28 ± 2.77 and 177.7 ± 2.37 ; 6.14 ± 0.26 , 11.8 ± 0.73 , 77.7 ± 1.86 and 191.71 ± 2.76 and 5.57 ± 0.48 , 13.0 ± 0.61 , 75.57 ± 0.89 and 193.57 ± 3.82 aphids respectively. Adults also consumed the aphids to a greater extent when compared to the immature stages of the *C. sexmaculata*. The average predatory potential of adults of all morphotypes was 579.71 ± 27.3 , 599.3 ± 33.3 , 563.71 ± 30.9 , 598.14 ± 23.06 and 588.4 ± 23.10 aphids respectively.

Key words : *Aphis craccivora*, *Cheilomenes sexmaculata*, Coccinellid, Feeding potential.