

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF MULBERRY LEAF ROLLER

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Mulberry leaf roller, *Diaphania pulverulentalis* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) is reported to infest mulberry gardens in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The infestation causes considerable reduction in leaf yield resulting in economic loss to sericulturists. Being seasonal in nature, its infestation starts with onset of monsoon, remains upto February, but maximum infestation is observed from September to November. The pest attacks mainly chawki garden (15 days after pruning) and is known to infest all most all the commercial mulberry varieties.

Symptoms: Binding of leaf blades by silky thread and presence of faecal matter below the infested portion.

Biology: Fecundity: 80 - 50 eggs @ 1 egg/unopened leaf bud
Incubation period: 2 - 3 days
Larval period: 8 - 12 days
Pupal period: 7 - 9 days
Total life cycle: 17 - 24 days.

MANAGEMENT

- 1. Mechanical:** Clip off infested portion along with the larva, collect in polythene cover/bucket and destroy by burning or dipping in 0.5% soap solution.
- 2. Chemical:** Spray 0.076% DDVP (Dichlorvas) 76% EC (1ml/litre of water) 10-12 days after pruning.
- 3. Biological:** Release *Trichogramma chilonis*- an egg parasitoid @ 1Tricho card/acre for 4 weeks.

[**Note:** Do not spray any insecticide after release of egg parasitoid]



Pest infestation



Leaf roller larva



Fixing of Tricho card bits

For further details please contact Director, CSR&TI, Mysore

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