

**SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF NUCLEAR POLYHEDROSES DISEASE  
AFFECTING MULBERRY SILKWORM IN SRI LANKA**

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Nuclear Polyhedroses is a serious disease of the mulberry silkworm causing serious damage to the sericulture industry in Sri Lanka.

The symptomatology of the virus disease was studied by inoculating the egg 1st, 4th and 5th instar stages with the virus at 27-31° C and 78-92% r.h. The inoculum was obtained from diseased larvae by a process of crushing and centrifugation. The eggs were inoculated by painting the shell. The larvae were inoculated *per os*.

Symptoms were recorded on various characters like mobility, appetite, skin colour and external features. The haemolymph of the final instars and the tissues of the cadavers were examined for the development of the polyhedra. The observations were continued unto the pupal stage.

It was found that the incubation period generally ranged from 4-8 days. The early instar larvae were more susceptible to the diseases than the final instars.