

D - 28 **A STUDY OF THE LARVAL INSTARS OF *SITOTROGA CEREALELLA* (OLIVIER) WITH
REFERENCE TO THE GROWTH OF THE HEAD CAPSULE**

V. K. Ganesalingam and Mahaluxmy Rajendran
(*Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna*)

The development of larval instar stages of *Sitotroga cerealella* take place inside the paddy seed.

The moth was reared in bottles under laboratory conditions and the adult was allowed to lay eggs on paddy. The infested paddy seeds examined daily during the larval period and the developed larvae were taken out from the seed. A comparative morphological study was made of the various instar stages.

It was found that the larva of *S. cerealella* undergoes our distinct instar stages. The age of the instar stages are about 6 days, 5 days and 8 days respectively.

SECTION D

Each instar has distinct morphological features which may be used for identification of the stages.

The histogram drawn with the frequency distribution of head capsule widths of the larvae shows four peaks, indicating the presence of four instar stages.

The present study shows that it is possible to determine the number of instar stages by developing a frequency distribution of the widths of larval head capsules.