

D-10 : IDENTIFICATION OF *Epilachna* spp FOUND IN SRI LANKA
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Epilachna sp is a common vegetable pest found on cucurbitaceae and solonaceae plants. Adults and larvae cause extensive damage to the leaves of these plants. Two species of *Epilachna* described in the Agriculture Department Manual on Plant Protection (1978) are: *E. maculata* and *E. vigintipunctata*; identification of these species is based on the number of black spots or markings on the elytra.

In a life cycle study of locally occurring *Epilachna* sp, it became clear that the number of spots on the elytra varied. This variation was confirmed by a planned study of elytral patterns in two generations. 12 - 15 different elytral patterns were recorded.

Species collected in the Batticaloa area were identified with the assistance of International Institute of Entomology, UK, as belonging to two species: *E. septima* and *E. vigintipunctata*. The identification of these species is based on differences in the genitalia. Thus there is a need for correction of identification methods cited in local literature.