

D-72: Biology of *Diaphania indica* (Lepidoptera : Pyralidae)

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Diaphania indica (Saunders) is a major Lepidopteran pest of Cucurbits. The biology of this pest on snake gourd, was studied.

Larvae of *D. indica* collected from snake gourd vines were reared in the laboratory. Females laid eggs 3 days after copulation. The average fecundity was 267 eggs. The incubation period at room temperature was 3 - 5 days. The larval period was 8 - 10 days and pupal period, 7 - 9 days. The maximum longevity of the adult moth was 9 days.

Two species of Braconid endoparasites (*Elasmus indicus* and *Apanteles tareganae*) and an unidentified Ichneumonid ectoparasite were found to parasitize larvae of *D. indica* in the field. Due to the high level of parasitism by *Elasmus indicus* (58.7%), the damage by *D. indica* to snake gourd was not severe during the study period.