

#### D-47 The biology and behaviour of *Epilachna vigintioctopunctata*

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Adults of brinjal hadda beetle, *Epilachna vigintioctopunctata* (Fabricius) (= *E. sparsa*) (Coleoptera : Coccinellidae) were collected from *Solanum melongena* grown at the Eastern University farm and were cultured in the laboratory to study their biology and behaviour. They completed their life cycle from 24 to 26 days. These insects preferred the lower surface of leaves to deposit their eggs. The incubation period ranged from 4-5 days. The hatchability of eggs ranged from 65-75%. The egg laying lasted for 8 days. The mean number of eggs laid by a single female during her life time was  $204.9 \pm 5.57$ . Larval development and pupation were completed within 14-16 and 4-5 days respectively.

Host preference studies showed that these insects preferred brinjal plants to 18 other plant species tested in this study. The odour of plants may have influenced the attack of the host plants.

The larval growth and food consumption rate (CR) increased with each moult. However, the fourth instar did not feed at all. CR of the female was higher than the male.