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Host selection and host acceptance by *Anisopteromalus calandrae* (Howard), a hymenopteran parasitoid of *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.)

Mung bean (*Vigna radiata*) is an excellent protein source and considered as one of the important legumes in Sri Lanka. *Callosbruchus chinensis* is a serious pest of stored mung seeds and *Anisopteromalus calandrae* is a well–known cosmopolitan parasitoid of *C. chinensis*. Information on the host selection and acceptance strategies of *A. calandrae* is useful for the development of a successful biological control of *C. chinensis* using this parasitoid. Therefore two laboratory experiments were carried out to study the host selection and acceptance strategies of *A. calandrae*. In the first experiment egg, larval and pupal stages of *C. chinensis* were offered for oviposition of *A. calandrae*. It was revealed that the parasitoid oviposited only in the larval and pupal stage of the pest. Percentages of parasitization were 73 and 80 respectively. To study the exact age of the host, accepted by *A. calandrae*, different host groups aged from day 0 to 18th days (from the day of the eggs deposited) were separately offered for oviposition by *A. calandrae*. It was clear that parasitoids accepts only 12th to 17th days old hosts which contains mature

larvae and pre pupal stages of host for oviposition. Percentages of adults, emerged from 11 to 16 days old, larvae, were 70, 78, 73, 80, 81 and 68 respectively.