



915/B/Poster

Developmental biology of *Micraspis discolor* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), a predator of *Aphis craccivora*

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Micraspis discolor (Fabricius) is predatory coccinellid species prey on aphids and leaf hoppers. This species has been considered as potential candidate for augmentative release in biological control to manage aphids. In order to promote this species as a biocontrol agent it is necessary to have the details on growth and development; hence, present study was conducted to generate the data on developmental biology of *M. discolor* under the laboratory conditions. The experiment was conducted in the Entomology Research Laboratory, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, during September to December 2014 under laboratory conditions of 27°C and 80 % RH. The average incubation period of *M. discolor* was 3.61 ± 0.27 days and the total larval duration was 9.23 ± 0.50 days. The first instar larval period was 2.07 ± 0.10 days. According to the results, reported 2nd instar larval duration was 3.07 ± 0.08 days while 3rd and 4th instar larval durations were 1.92 ± 0.08 and 2.15 ± 0.76 days, respectively. The observed pre-pupal and pupal periods were 1.07 and 3.84 ± 0.10 days, respectively. The mean longevities of the male and female beetles were 36.23 ± 0.47 and 44.69 ± 0.82 days, respectively. The mean pre-oviposition period was 5.07 ± 0.77 days and the oviposition period was 41.30 ± 0.95 days. *M. discolor* has 17.75 ± 0.21 days to complete the development. Adult life span is over one month. *M. discolor* can be suggested as potential predatory species according to its developmental biology.

Keywords: Instar, larval duration, oviposition

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