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Research Paper

EFFECT OF ESTRADIOL-17 β ON CERTAIN ECONOMIC TRAITS OF A MULTIVOLTINE SILKWORM, *BOMBYX MORI* (RACE: NISTARI)

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ABSTRACT

The presence of estradiol - 17 β in the ovaries and haemolymph of silkworms being an established fact, many an investigation on its role in *Bombyx mori* have been undertaken by several workers. The present study was carried out in this line, in order to understand the possibility of estrogen having any effect on its life span, cocoon shell weight, fecundity and hatchability. Although estrogen could not impose significant changes in economic traits of a multivoltine silkworm (*B. mori*) race Nistari, it strikingly shortened the fifth instar larval span in female by approximately two days. This phenomenon might turn out to have some positive effect on sericulture in the long run.

Key words: Cocoon, egg laying, estradiol -17 β , hatchability, life span, silkworm.