

## Bihar Hairy Caterpillar and their Management

(\*Vikram )

Department of Entomology, MPUAT, Udaipur

\* [vikramkumawat305@gmail.com](mailto:vikramkumawat305@gmail.com)

**B**ihar hairy caterpillar (*Spilosoma oblique*) is the serious polyphagous insect pest that come under the order Lepidoptera of class consisting of chewing type of mouthpart which is confirm to the oriental region known to cause damage to several crops of agricultural and horticultural importance. both species of cultivated jute crop (*Corchorus obliquus* and *C. capsularis*) are highly susceptible to *S. obliqua* particularly during the active growth season.in jute yield loss up to 30%.it is the regular pest of jute causing defoliation and crop damage extensively.

### Damage

1. The caterpillar invasion on holes on leaves, the caterpillar is herbivorous thus they devour any green matter fast. Leaves are the first culprits then target fresh buds and the result is wilting bud and crop.
2. Leaf yellowing-young larva feed gregariously on chlorophyll mostly on the under surface of leaves, due to leaves look like brownish yellow in colour, later the larva eats the leaves from the margin the leaves of plant give an appearance of net or web.
3. Irregular holes- the caterpillar chop weed leaves with no regular pattern at all.
4. Stem damage- the caterpillar eats up the stem insects start digging holes into the stem.

### Life cycle

**Egg periods:** Adult female lay egg on the lower surface of leaves; freshly laid egg is the creamy white. Incubation period range is the 5-6 days.

**Larval period:** The caterpillar moulted five times and six larval instars. The total larval periods range is 20-21 days.

**Pupal periods:** Pupation take place in the soil. Obtect pupa, the total pupal periods are 8-9 days.



**Adult:** The adult are medium brown moths and had pink abdomen. Wings pinkish with numerous black spots. The male moths are almost similar to the female but it was smaller than female in size. The abdomen is sharply tapered compared to female. The female moth bigger than male. The abdomen of female was blunt while abdomen of male was narrow and pointed.

**Total life span:** Total life span male and female ranged from 32 to 42 days. Several generations in the year.



Larvae and Adult of Bihar hairy caterpillar

### Management

1. Deep summer ploughing.
2. Avoid pre monsoon sowing
3. Use the optimum seed rate.
4. Use of the adequate plant spacing.
5. Intercrop soyabean either with (early maturing) pigeon pea variety or maize or sorghum in the sequence of 4:2 should be practiced.
6. Collect and destroy infested plant part, egg masses and young larvae.
7. Field sanitation.
8. Light trap: install one light trap (200W mercury vapour lamp) per hecter to catch the adults of some nocturnal pest such as hairy caterpillar.
9. Spraying of *bacillus thuringiensis Krustaki* @ 750 g/ha in 500-700 lit water. Grow trap crop like cowpea, castor and jatropha on field bunds to attract the caterpillar.