

BIOLOGY OF *PERISCEPSIA CARBONARIA* (DIPTERA: TACHINIDAE)
A PARASITOID OF *AGROTIS SEGETUM* (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The tachinid fly *periscepsia carbonaria* (panz) a gregarious endoparasitoid of *Agrotis segetum* (Schiff), was reared under laboratory conditions ($25 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$, 60 - 70 % R.H. and 14 hrs. Light 10 hrs. Dark regime). Different stages of this parasitoid were described. The eggs were deposited on the host body which hatched just after deposition. At $25 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $30 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$, the larval period lasted for 9.6, 8.8, and 6.9 days; pupal stage was completed in 11.6, 11.3, and 8.5 days respectively. In respect of above stated temperatures the pre-oviposition period of adult female lasted for 8.0, 5.2, and 3.5 days; oviposition period completed in 14.7, 16.7, and 16.1 days; while the post-oviposition period lasted for 4.8, 3.0, and 2.5 days. During oviposition period the female laid on an average 106.8, 252.8, and 249.3 eggs respectively. The adult female survived for 27.7, 22.7, and 16.3 days and male for 24.9, 20.8 and 14.9 days at the above stated temperatures respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Cutworms *Agrotis* spp. are polyphagous in nature. These insects attack tobacco, potato, tomato, ladyfinger, sugarbeet, turnip, gram, cauliflower, maize, cotton and many other vegetables, field crops, fruit plants and grasses. Damage is done by the larvae which hide themselves in the soil during day time and at night they come out for feeding. A larva cuts the seedling a little above the soil surface or just below the soil and when the seedling falls on the ground it feeds upon the fallen plant. A