

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Objectives &amp; Scope of Study .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. Review of Literature.....</b>	<b>10-27</b>
3.1. Pests and lepidopteran defoliators of tea.....	10
3.2. Host Preference.....	14
3.3. Allometric growth.....	16
3.4. Life-tables & Survivorship.....	17
3.5. Artificial Diet.....	18
3.6. Dry mass budget.....	23
<b>4. Materials and Methods.....</b>	<b>28-44</b>
4.1. Survey of tea plantations and collection of lepidopteran pests	28
4.2. Source of natural food (Tea leaves) for laboratory rearing. (culture) and experimentation with the lepidopteran folivores	28
4.3. Mass Rearing on Natural and Artificial Diets.....	29
4.4. Preparation of Artificial diets.....	31
4.5. Host plant selection.....	32
4.6. Morphometric & Allometric growth study.....	33
4.7. Post-embryonic Development period on Natural and Artificial Diets.....	35
4.8. Survivorship study.....	36
4.9. Daily food consumption and larval weight.....	37
4.10. Reproductive performance.....	37
4.11. Dry Mass budget.....	38
4.12. Biochemical analysis.....	40
4.12.1. Preparation of dry powder of leaf.....	40
4.12.2. Preparation of dry powder of late instars of <i>B. suppressaria</i> , <i>Et. magnifica</i> and <i>E. latifascia</i> .	41
4.12.3. Analysis of Biochemical components: .....	41
4.12.3.1. Nitrogen.....	41
4.12.3.2. Fat.....	42
4.12.3.3. Ash.....	43
4.12.3.4. Moisture.....	43
4.13. Statistical Analysis.....	43

<b>5. Result and Discussion</b> .....	<b>45-75</b>
5.1. Host Preference.....	45
5.2. Life-cycle & Morphometrics.....	48
5.2.1. <i>Buzura suppressaria</i> .....	48
5.2.2. <i>Eterusia magnifica</i> .....	49
5.2.3. <i>Euproctis latisfascia</i> .....	51
5.3. Allometric growth.....	53
5.4. Post – embryonic Development period on Natural and Artificial diets.....	54
5.5. Survivorship.....	55
5.6. Daily food consumption and larval body weight.....	59
5.7. Reproductive performance.....	60
5.8. Dry mass budget.....	63
5.8.1. Relative Consumption Rate (RCR) & Relative Growth Rate (RGR).....	63
5.8.2. Approximate Digestibility (AD), Efficiency of Ingested Food (ECI) & Efficiency of Digested Food (ECD).....	68
5.8.3. Maintenance Cost and Production index.....	70
5.9. Biochemical analysis .....	71
5.9.1. Nitrogen.....	72
5.9.2. Lipid.....	73
5.9.3. Moisture.....	74
<b>6. Summary</b> .....	<b>76-80</b>
<b>Highlights</b> .....	<b>81-82</b>
<b>References</b> .....	<b>83-106</b>