STUDIES ON PROGRESSION GROWTH FACTOR FOR ERI SILKMOTH, 
SAMIA RICINI DONOVAN (LEPIDOPTERA: SATURNIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The Progression Growth Factor was studied for Eri silkmoth, Samia ricini
Donovan by rearing the larvae on the leaves of four food plants (Castor, Ricinus
communis; Kesseru, Heteropanax fragrans; Tapioca, Manihot utilissima and papaya,
Carica papaya) at 26-28°C temperature and 60-85% relative humidity.

It was observed that the values of Progression Growth Factor were almost
at par for castor and kesseru leaves indicating that growth was similar on both of
the host plants. The value was lesser for tapioca leaves than castor and kesseru.
However, the larvae could not complete their life cycle on papaya leaves.

Key words: Eri silkmoth, larva, Progression Growth Factor, Castor, Kesseru, Tapioca
and Papaya