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# STUDY ON SUMMER PRESERVATION LOSS IN BHANDARA ECORACE OF *ANTHERAEA MYLITTA* DRURY

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**ABSTRACT : Bhandara ecorace is one of the commercially important natural Tasar ecorace of *Antheraea mylitta* Drury endowed with superior economic traits. Bhandara ecorace is considered to be the best by the Tasar reelers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra owing to its higher silk content and reelability. Over exploitation for trade caused drastic dwindling of this Saturniid silk moth and it is necessary to save it from extinction. Preservation of seed cocoon stock after the harvest of III crop, during the hot summer month, is the greatest problem (Anonymous, 2003) faced by the scientists, in conservation of this ecorace. This study is an effort to form data base to understand pattern of summer preservation loss for evolving effective strategy for conservation of this ecorace. The pupal mortality during summer preservation stands at 16.42% and unseasonal emergence was 36.29 % during the period of study. Total cocoon preservation loss was 52.71%. Of which maximum loss was in month of June followed by May. It was noted that during May and June months some rain occurred leading to increase in humidity, special in minimum humidity level. Results indicated the need of developing technology to protect exposure of summer preserved cocoons to fluctuation in temperature and relative humidity so that loss of valuable material could be avoided.**

***Key words:*** *Antheraea mylitta,* Bhandara ecorace, conservation, summer preservation, Erratic emergence, pupal mortality, diapause.