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IDENTIFICATION OF AUTUMN SPECIFIC BREEDING RESOURCE MATERIAL OF *BOMBYX MORI* L. SUITABLE FOR SECOND COMMERCIAL REARING UNDER KASHMIR CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT:- In the present investigation, an attempt was made to identify the suitable bivoltine breeds for commercial exploitation under Kashmir climatic conditions during early autumn season. With the objective of selecting suitable breeding resource material, twelve bivoltine silkworm breeds namely NB4D2, NB18, SH6, C108, SK1, SK6, JBEL, MJ23, MJ23A, MJ102, MJ103 and MJ106 were collected from the germplasm collection of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Mirgund. The data were collected on economic characters such as fecundity, hatching percentage, larval duration, yield/10,000 larvae by number, yield/10,000 larvae by weight, single cocoon weight, single shell weight, shell ratio and filament length and were statistically analyzed using ANOVA and evaluation index method. Perusal of data revealed that among the selected breeds SK1, SH6 and NB4D2 scored highest ranking values and are best suited to rear during early autumn season under Kashmir climatic conditions.

Key words: Bombyx mori, silkworm, bivoltine, economic characters.