

## Influence of some castor genotypes on larval, cocoon and grainage traits of eri silkworm, (*Samia cynthia ricini* Boisduval)

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### ABSTRACT

Twelve castor genotypes raised under rainfed condition were used as source of food to eri silkworm to record their effect on larval growth and development, cocoon and grainage parameters. Longer total larval duration and higher mature larval weight were recorded in larvae fed on Aruna (22.20 days and 66.98 g/10) and RC-8 (22.20 days and 67.53 g/10) castor genotypes with no significant differences between them. Likewise, higher shell weight (0.338 and 0.334 g) and fecundity (346.67 and 343.00 eggs/laying) were registered in the cocoons and the moths emerged from the cocoons formed out of larvae fed on the above castor genotypes, respectively with negligible difference between them. On the other hand, higher cocoon weight (2.228 g), pupal weight (1.893 g) and egg hatchability (99.90%) were recorded in larvae fed on RC-8 genotype, while the shell ratio was higher in cocoons formed from the larvae fed on Aruna genotype (15.82%).

**Key words :** Castor, *Samia cynthia ricini*, Rainfed, Larval, Cocoon and Grainage traits.