

## **Evaluation of relative moisture loss from leaves of five mulberry varieties during silkworm rearing**

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Leaf moisture content and moisture retention rate are important qualitative parameters from the point of young age silkworm rearing. In the present investigation relative moisture loss from tender leaves of five selected mulberry varieties *viz.* S<sub>36</sub>, S<sub>54</sub>, DD, V<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>5</sub> from Shimoga district were evaluated. Differences among the five varieties with respect to the leaf moisture retention capacity/moisture loss are included in this study. Based on the values recorded, variety V<sub>1</sub> showed higher retention rate at different hours of preservation compared to rest of the varieties. The lowest rate was recorded from M<sub>5</sub> variety.

Key words : Leaf moisture loss, Retention rate, Mulberry varieties.