

Biological Study and Rearing Techniques
on Bamboo Caterpillar, *Omphisa fuscidentalis* Hampson

Leela Kayikananta

Forest Products and Development Division, Royal Forest Department
Chatuyak, Bangkok, 10900, THAILAND.

Abstract

Biological study on the reproduction of *Omphisa fuscidentalis* Hampson found that the adults flying to mate during the night, after that female moth lays the mass of 80-130 white eggs on the sheaths mostly at the base of bamboo shoot. Upon hatching, the first stage of young larvae were pale brown, then they arranged themselves into long rows heading to find the suitable internodes for infestation. The group of larvae assists one another to bore an entrance hole within one day and would mutually bore the exit hole for the adults emergence mostly from the fifth to tenth internodes within one days, after entering the bamboo shoot. The color of larvae became white within three days. After larvae were 45-60 days old, they moved down and congregated in the internode with existing exit hole for another eight months. The proper collecting technique should therefore be done after their congregation with the best period from January to April. As the result, bamboo caterpillars could be obtained from the specific internode and infested culm could be harvested for later utilization.

There are two mass rearing technique methods of bamboo caterpillar, *Omphisa fuscidentalis*. The first method is by controlled mating in the nylon-net cage covering bamboo shoot. The second method is by releasing moths for natural mating into the bamboo shoot plot. The latter is the best rearing technique because it is easy and convenient.

Bamboo host plants comprised of four genera and eleven species, namely *Dendrocalamus membranaceus*, *D. strictus*, *D. hamiltonii*, *D. asper*, *D. giganteus*, *D. brandisii*, *Bambusa nutans*, *B. vulgaris*, *B. arundinaceae*, *Gigantochloa nigro-ciliata*. and *Thyrsostachys siamensis*.