

## Evaluation of Bed Disinfectants on Economic Traits of Multivoltine Hybrid Mulberry Silkworm [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)], in Kishanganj District, Bihar

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**ABSTRACT:** The experiment was conducted to study the impact of four bed disinfectants on mulberry silkworm multivoltine hybrid mulberry silkworm [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] reared on C2038 variety in Kishanganj district of Bihar. Mulberry silkworm treated with bed disinfectant Labex@ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding showed significantly higher result in terms of single cocoon weight ((1.56 g), single shell weight (0.62 g), SR percentage (39.74 %), filament length (790.67 m), NBFL (790.67 m), denier (2.54), raw silk filament weight (0.23 g), renditta (4.57), in comparison to Vijetha, Sericillin and Amla powder while lower values were recorded in control batch.

**Keywords:** Bed disinfectants, multivoltine, post cocoon parameters.

### INTRODUCTION

The word “Sericulture” refers to the conscious mass-scale rearing of silk producing organism in order to obtain silk from them or Sericulture is the art and science of producing silk. It deals with mulberry cultivation and raising silkworm larvae for industrial silk. Silk is a special protein fibre developed from the interface of plants and animals. The word “silk” is derived from “Si” the name of silkworm in Chinese. Silkworm is called as “Soi” in Korean and “Seize” in German. Silk is known as “QUEEN OF TEXTILE” and “BIOSTEEL because of its glistening shine, softness, elegance, durability, and tensile properties (Hiware, 2001). Sericulture is an important sub-sector of agriculture that contributes to the agricultural economy by providing year-round employment and better income, primarily to rural farm families (Roopa and Murthy 2015; Masrat and Tripathi 2017).

The mulberry silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) is a domesticated and economically significant insect that is the primary producer of silk. Because silkworms are more sensitive to environmental, nutritional, and microbial factors, they are more susceptible to disease, resulting in silkworm mortality and cocoon crop loss throughout the year (Doreswamy *et al.*, 2004). In order to enhance silk production, it is essential to create mulberry varieties and silkworm breeds that exhibit high productivity and can withstand challenging climatic conditions and diseases (Jolly *et al.*, 1987). Unless appropriate curative or preventive measures are implemented during the rearing process, the existing

infection could potentially lead to a rise in disease cases, resulting in significant crop losses. Unfortunately, no viable curative methods have been discovered to manage diseases in silkworms, making preventive measures the sole approach for disease control. As a standard preventive practice, the use of bed disinfectants is consistently employed in nearly all sericulture-adopting countries. Employing correct and efficient disinfection techniques and systematically maintain cleanliness protocols are crucial for achieving optimal outcomes. Various bed disinfectants *viz.*, Vijetha, sericilin, Labex and Amla were used and their effect on economical traits were observed on multivoltine mulberry silkworm

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The current experiment was created and carried out at the Advance Center on Sericulture, Kishanganj Bihar during March to June 2022. The multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] was utilised to examine the effect of bed disinfectants affected the commercial attributes and rearing efficiency which were then reared by adopting the usual approach until spinning.

#### Treatment details

T1 – Application of bed disinfectant Vijetha @ 5g/sq ft daily, after the bed cleaning before ½ an hour of feeding from 2<sup>nd</sup> moulting to before spinning.

T2 - Application of bed disinfectant Sericilin @ 5g/sq ft daily, after the bed cleaning before ½ an hour of feeding from 2<sup>nd</sup> moulting to before spinning.

T3 - Application of bed disinfectant Labex @ 5g/sq ft daily, after the bed cleaning before ½ an hour of feeding from 2<sup>nd</sup> moulting to before spinning.

T4 - Application of bed disinfectant Amla @ 5g/sq ft daily, after the bed cleaning before ½ an hour of feeding from 2<sup>nd</sup> moulting to before spinning

T5 – Untreated control

**Rearing techniques:** The experiment was conducted with completely randomized design with five treatments and four replications mulberry silkworm race namely multivoltine [NISTARI × (SK6× SK7)]. Fifty diseases free layings (DFL's) were selected and black boxing was done in egg racks covered with black sheets for hatching at room temperature in laboratory. It was observed that 90-95 per cent of hatching in both the races. After hatching of eggs tender mulberry leaves of variety C-2038 chopped into small pieces of 0.5 sq.cm size and sprinkled over newly hatched first instar larvae crawling over leaves and start eating at cutting edges.

Feeding of silkworm is done four times a day. The timing for feeding of silkworm were fixed at 6 AM, 11 AM, 4 PM and 10 PM for each day. In total four moulting were observed in silkworm during its growth phase. During each moulting silkworm stops feeding and rests with raising their head and change their colour. After 2<sup>nd</sup> moulting, 300 each 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae were taken as per treatments. There were four replications in each treatment, the larvae were separated in to different rearing tray as per there treatments and replications. Silkworm bed were made with uniform size as per there space requirement. Bed cleaning was done daily by removing waste material by hand picking method, after cleaning bed disinfectants were dusted with help of muslin cloths before ½ an hour of feeding. The quantity and size of leaves were increased after each moulting.

Full grown late instar larvae become sluggish and stop feeding, change their colour and become transparent, mature larvae become restless and raise their head and find support for spinning the cocoon. These larvae were hand-picked and shifted to Chandrika where it takes 6 to 10 days for spinning the cocoon. Worms were converting itself into pupae within cocoon in two to three days. Harvesting of cocoon was done on 7<sup>th</sup> day of spinning. After harvesting weight of 100 cocoon was taken and a lot of 50 green cocoon are separated for shell ratio and shell weight, after that green cocoon were oven dried at different temperatures from higher to lower as follows 110°C for fifteen-minute, 100°C for thirty-minute, 85°C for one hour, 70°C for two hour and 55°C for six hours. Later 150 grams of dried cocoon separated from each replication of treatment for further observing the post cocoon parameter.

**Schedule of feeding:** Chopped leaves of mulberry of variety C-2038 was fed to worms four times a day viz., 6 AM, 11AM, 4PM and 10 PM. For initial stage worm small size chopped leaves of 0.5mm is used to feed. After each moulting the size and quantity of feed is increases, for late-stage worm even whole leaves are given for feeding.

**Schedule for bed disinfectants:** Bed disinfectants was dusted on worm from 3<sup>rd</sup> instar till 5<sup>th</sup> instar on daily

basis after bed cleaning and before ½ an hour of feeding with help of muslin cloths. Dose of dusting of bed disinfectants was @ 5g/sq ft.

#### Observations recorded

**Single cocoon weight (gram):** The weight of the cocoon was measured on the sixth day of spinning, when it is believed to be at its highest. The weight of a single cocoon was calculated as the average of 10 cocoons and it was measured in gram.

**Single shell weight (gram):** After extracting the pupae, the cocoons were split apart at one end, and the weight of the shell was recorded. The weight of a single shell was calculated as the average of 10 shells and it was measured in gram.

#### Cocoon shell ratio:

After deflossing and sorting, good green cocoons were collected randomly for assessment. For correct assessment, use of good electronic balance with a capacity to weigh 0.10 gm at lowest stage and maximum at 500-1000 g. The procedure followed was given below.

- Six or seven days after spinning, a cocoon examination was carried out.
- In order to avoid cutting the pupa while cutting cocoons, the cocoon must be cut obliquely.
- Separated ten male and ten female cocoons.
- All ten male cocoon shells with pupae should be placed on the balance after calibrating it for 0 to determine the cocoon weight.
- All ten male cocoon shells should be placed on the balance after calibrating it for 0 to determine the shell weight
- The same method was performed for female cocoons and readings were recorded.
- The shell ratio for male and female was calculated separately.
- Calculated the average cocoon weight, shell weight and shell ratio.

Sex	10 cocoon weight (gm)	10 shell weight (gm)
Male	A	B
Female	A1	B1
Average	C = A+A1/2	D = B+B1/2

Shell ratio is calculated by using the formulae;

$$\text{Shell ratio} = \frac{\text{Weight of cocoon shell (D)}}{\text{Weight of cocoon (C)}} \times 100$$

**Filament length (m):** Oven dried cocoon was cooked at 100°C after that reeling occur. By reeling 10 cocoons with the use of Epprovate, the average filament length of a cocoon was estimated in metres. Filament length is calculated by using formulae:

Filament length (m) = number of revolutions in Epprovate × 1.125

#### Non-breakable filament length (NBFL):

It is a standard length of cocoon filament that can be unwound without breaking. It is calculated by taking average of five cocoon filament. Formula for calculating NBFL is,

$$\text{NBFL} = \frac{\text{Filament length}}{1 + \text{Break}} \quad (\text{Anonymous, 2005})$$

**Denier:** The term "denier" is used to describe the silk filament's thickness. It is defined as the weight of the filament divided by the length of the filament, multiplied by 9000. The average filament weight was recorded by taking the weight of randomly selected 10 reeled silk filaments. It is expressed in grams (g).

$$\text{Denier} = \frac{\text{Filament weight (g)}}{\text{Filament length (m)}} \times 9000$$

(Anonymous, 2005; Marks and Robinson, 1976)

**Raw silk filament weight:** It is the silk weight obtained after the reeling.

**Renditta:** Rendita is value derive from litre of cocoon required to produce 1 kg of silk. Calculated by using formula;

$$\text{Rendita} = \frac{\text{Good green cocoon weight}}{\text{Silk weight}}$$

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on in multivoltine Single cocoon weight hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race (Table-1) the result showed that significantly maximum single cocoon weight (1.56 g) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (1.54 g). The significantly lowest single cocoon weight was observed in untreated control (1.40 g). The present findings are in accorded with earlier findings of Manimegalai *et al.* (1999) found the Vijetha treatment recorded maximum single cocoon weight (1.63 g). Anonymous (2002) also shown that Vijetha has recorded maximum single cocoon weight (1.684 g) as compare to other disinfectants. Swathi *et al.* (2014) observed the cocoon weight 1.96 g was maximum in daily application of hydrated lime powder at the rate of 5g/sq ft + application of bundh powder after every moult. Kuntamalla *et al.* (2007); Singh (2012); Chitra *et al.* (1975) also reported increase in cocoon to untreated control. Surapwar (2019) revealed that the highest single cocoon weight (1.94 g) was recorded in treatment T1 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectant Vijetha at the rate 5g per sq.ft. ½ hour before resuming feeding after each moulting.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on in multivoltine Single shell weight hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race (Table 1) the result showed that significantly maximum single shell weight (0.62 g) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (0.59 g). The significantly lowest single shell weight was observed in untreated control (0.47 g). The present results are in agreement with the earlier results of (Anonymous (2002) noticed that Vijetha recorded maximum single

shell weight (0.285 g) as compare to other disinfectants. Swathi *et al.* (2014) noticed the shell weight (0.330 g) was highest in daily application of hydrated lime powder after every moult. Shashidhar *et al.* (2018) found that effectiveness of bed disinfectants on silkworm diseases application of Ankush, Vijetha green and slaked lime powder combination bed disinfectant was recorded high shell weight (0.340 g).

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on cocoon shell ratio in multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race (Table 1) the result showed that significantly maximum cocoon shell ratio (39.74 %) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (38.48 %). The significantly lowest cocoon shell ratio was observed in untreated control (33.66 %). Present findings are in line with the findings of Surapwar *et al.* (2019) found bed disinfectant of Vijetha @ 5g/sq ft. recorded highest cocoon shell ratio compared to control treatment. Karuppasamy *et al.* (2013) and Chitra *et al.* (1975) found higher values of shell ratio in use of bed disinfectants as compared to control. Jadhav and Salunke (1995) reported the highest shell percentage of mulberry silkworm bed which was disinfected by the application of lime+ paraformaldehyde (98:2). Baig *et al.* (1993); Sivaprakasam (1999); Jawale and Tayade (1987); Jadhav and Salunke (1995) also found the similar results by using different bed disinfectant.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on filament length of multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race the result showed that significantly maximum filament length (790.67 m) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (785.67 m). The significantly lowest filament length was observed in untreated control (698 m). Jawale and Tayade (1987) studied that highest filament length in paraformaldehyde. Jagannatha (1996) reported significantly higher filament length in application of formalin chaff and lime + Dithane M application. Manimegalai and Subramaniam (1999); Anonymous (2002); Kuntamalla (2007); Swathi *et al.* (2014); Shashidhar *et al.* (2018) were also seems have the results in line with filament length of present study.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on Non-breakable filament length of multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race the result showed that significantly maximum non-breakable filament length (790.67 m) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (785.67 m). The significantly minimum non-breakable filament length was observed in untreated control (595.05 m). The present study is in agreement with earlier results of Jawale and Tayade (1987) studied that

highest non-breakable filament length in paraformaldehyde. Jagannatha (1996) reported significantly higher non-breakable filament length in application of formalin chaff and lime + Dithane M application. Manimegalai and Subramaniam (1999); Anonymous (2002); Kuntamalla (2007); Swathi *et al.* (2014); Shashidhar *et al.* (2018) were also seems have the results in line with non-breakable filament length of present study.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on denier of multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race the result showed that significantly minimum denier (2.54) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (2.59). The significantly minimum denier was observed in untreated control (2.91). The present results are in agreement with Gowda (2014) with recommended dosage of bed disinfectants denier were better in the 100 per cent bed disinfectant or recommended bed disinfectant was used.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on Raw silk filament weight of multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In

multivoltine race (the result showed that significantly minimum raw silk filament weight (0.23 g) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (0.25 g). The significantly minimum raw silk filament weight was observed in untreated control (0.35 g).

The study on the effect of disinfectants Vijetha and Labex used in the present investigation on raw silk percentage of bivoltine and multivoltine silkworm races has not been attempted by any one till date.

**Effect of different bed disinfectants on Renditta of multivoltine hybrid race [NISTARI × (SK6×SK7)] of mulberry silkworm.** In multivoltine race the result showed that significantly lowest renditta (4.57) was observed in treatment T3 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding followed by treatment T4 *i.e.*, application of bed disinfectants Amla @ 5g/sq. ft. (4.64). The significantly higher renditta was observed in untreated control (4.95).

The study on the effect of disinfectants Vijetha and Labex used in the present investigation on renditta of bivoltine and multivoltine silkworm races has not been attempted by any one till date.

**Table 1: Effect of different bed disinfectants on post cocoon parameters of multivoltine silkworm race [NISTARI × (SK6 × SK7)].**

Treatments	Single cocoon weight (g)	Single Shell Weight (g)	SR (%)	Filament length (m)	NBFL (m)	Denier	Raw Silk filament Weight (g)	Renditta
T1- Vijetha	1.46	0.50	36.02 (34.59*)	708.00	647.30	2.79	0.32	4.81
T2- Sericilin	1.50	0.54	36.76 (35.82)	721.33	721.34	2.65	0.30	4.74
T3- Labex	1.56	0.62	39.08 (39.74)	790.67	790.67	2.54	0.23	4.57
T4- Amla	1.54	0.59	38.34 (38.48)	785.67	785.67	2.59	0.25	4.64
T5- Control	1.40	0.47	35.46 (33.66)	698.00	595.05	2.91	0.35	4.95
SE(±m)	0.01	0.01	0.81	6.69	15.3	0.02	0.01	0.03
CD at 5%	0.04	0.04	2.43	20.17	46.0	0.07	0.03	0.09
CV%	1.67	4.55	9.08	1.81	4.3	1.73	7.90	1.31

## CONCLUSIONS

The success of sericulture industry depends upon several factors of which the impact of the environmental factors such as biotic and abiotic factors is of vital importance (Gautam *et al.*, 2022). Among the abiotic factors, temperature plays a major role on growth and productivity of silkworm, as it is a poikilothermic (cold blooded) insect Benchemin and Jolly (1986). Mulberry silkworm treated with bed disinfectant Labex @ 5g/sq. ft. ½ an hour before feeding showed significantly higher result in terms of single cocoon weight, single shell weight, SR percentage, filament length, NBFL, denier, raw silk filament weight, renditta in comparison to Vijetha, Sericillin and Amla. So, it is recommended to follow

the disinfection by Labex for better post cocoon parameters in Bihar and eastern part of India.

## FUTURE SCOPE

The farmers of Northern India, especially Bihar in particular are not much aware of sericulture, its benefits, diseases and other activities related to sericulture except some packets of Kishanganj, Purnea, Kathihar, Arraria Banka and Jamuai districts. It needs to be spread to other districts for accomplishment national and state targets. The diseases play a very key role in getting good results. So, good quality bed disinfectants are very essential for same. The present study will be very helpful in addressing the needs of farmers in the eastern region of country.

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**Conflict of Interest.** None.

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