



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
 ISSN (P): 2349-8242
 NAAS Rating: 5.23
 TPI 2022; SP-11(2): 1306-1308
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www.thepharmajournal.com
 Received: 25-12-2021
 Accepted: 27-01-2022

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Performance of single and double hybrids of silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) for economic traits on mulberry

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Abstract

The experiment was carried out to study the “Performance of single and double hybrids of silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) for economic traits on Mulberry” at Sericulture Research Unit, Department of Agricultural Entomology, College of Agriculture, VNMKV, Parbhani during 2020 – 2021. The variety V-1 was utilized during experiment. The hybrids viz., BL67 x CSR5, SHP5 x DHP5, DHP5 x SHP5, (CSR16 x CSR17) x DHP5, (CSR2 x CSR40) x (S8 x CSR16), (CSR46 x CSR47) x (S8 x CSR16), (S8 x CSR16) x (CSR50 x CSR51) and (CSR2 x CSR4) x (G3 x G2) were utilized as treatments. The weight of cocoons was found to be in the range of 1.54 g to 1.92 g. The significantly highest cocoon weight was observed in (CSR16 x CSR17) x DHP5 (1.92 g) over the rest of the hybrids, The maximum shell weight was recorded by the bivoltine hybrid (CSR16 x CSR17) x DHP5 (0.403 g). Among double hybrids, the two double hybrids (CSR46 x CSR47) x (S8 x CSR16) (0.367 g) and (S8 x CSR16) x (CSR50 x CSR51) (0.363 g) shown superior performance over the control treatment (CSR2 x CSR4) x (G3 x G2) (0.356 g). The bivoltine hybrid (CSR16 x CSR17) x DHP5 recorded highest filament length (1140 m) followed by the hybrid (CSR2 x CSR4) x (S8 x CSR16) (1096 m). Only two hybrids (S8 x CSR16) x (CSR50 x CSR51) (783.33 m) and BL67 x CSR5 (793.33 m) shown non-significant filament length values to control treatment (CSR2 x CSR4) x (G3 x G2) (840 m) and The filament weight was varied from 0.294 to 0.322 g and the highest filament weight of T4 hybrid (CSR16 x CSR17) x DHP5 (0.322 g). The significantly lowest filament weight was observed in BL67 x CSR5 (0.294 g) and (S8 x CSR16) x (CSR50 x CSR51) (0.298 g).

Keywords: economic, hybrids, silkworm, mulberry, trait

Introduction

Silk is the world's most elegant textile, with unrivalled grandeur, natural sheen, and intrinsic affinity for colours, as well as great absorbency, light weight, soft touch, and high durability. It is referred regarded as the "Queen of Textiles" around the world. On the other hand, because of its high employment orientated, low capital intensive, and remunerative nature of production, it represents a livelihood option for millions. (Kumar *et al.*, 2017) [6].

India is one of the oldest country practicing sericulture and rearing of polyvoltine silkworm is tradition of the country. The majority of Indian silk is of polyvoltine origin, produced by small-scale operators who cannot compete in terms of quality and uniformity on the international market. As a result, there is a lot of room for increased production of high-quality silk to meet the needs of power looms, which will only be possible if bivoltine sericulture is successfully introduced on a broad scale, together with a modern reeling unit. It is consequently required to evolve bivoltine breeds that are suitable to farmers' situations, such as poor management levels, poor quality mulberry leaves, and variable microclimatic conditions (Quadri *et al.*, 2013) [7]. In terms of productivity, one hectare of mulberry farming yields about Rs. 76,000 worth of silk, making it a highly profitable crop when compared to other commercial field crops. Additionally, it employs 12-13 people per year in mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, recycling, twisting, wearing, and garment production.

Material and Methods

The present investigation was undertaken to study the “Performance of Biological traits of single and double hybrids of silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) on Mulberry” at Sericulture Research Unit, Department of Agricultural Entomology, College of Agriculture, VNMKV, Parbhani during 2020–2021.

The rearing house and rearing appliances were disinfected with Sanitech (ClO₂) solution (500 ppm ClO₂ + 0.5% slaked lime) to make them free from pathogens before rearing.

The trays containing egg sheets were stored in cool place in rearing house. On attaining the blue growth stage, the egg sheets were placed in plastic incubation tray and covered by black piece of cloth called as black boxing and left undisturbed for 24 hours for uniform growth of embryo, after which the eggs were exposed to bright tube light for one hour for uniform hatching. The newly hatched worms were given sliced fresh delicate mulberry leaves to eat of variety V-1. Timing of the feeding was fixed at 7 hours, 11 hours, 16 hours and 20 hours in a day. During its larval stage, the silkworm moults four times. (five instars).

After full development, the ripe worms were identified as they looked translucent with creamy colour and ceased to eat and crawled towards periphery of trays and tried to spin the cocoon, such worms were hand picked and kept on the mountages. Larvae spun the cocoons within 48 to 72 hours. The pupa remains inside the cocoon till emergence. The harvesting of cocoons was made on fifth day of release of worms from mountages.

Result and Discussion

Cocoon weight was recorded in the range of 1.54 g to 1.92 g. The significantly highest cocoon weight was observed in (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ (1.92 g) over the rest of the hybrids. The single hybrids BL₆₇ x CSR₅ (1.54 g), SHP₅ x DHP₅ (1.67 g) and DHP₅ x SHP₅ (1.73 g) shown poor performance for the single cocoon weight. Vidhate (2013) [10] observed bivoltine hybrid CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇ showed maximum single cocoon weight (1.98 g) and found significantly superior over rest of hybrids.

The maximum the bivoltine hybrid measured shell weight. (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ (0.403 g). Among double hybrids,

the two double hybrids (CSR₄₆ x CSR₄₇) x (S₈ x CSR₁₆) (0.367 g) and (S₈ x CSR₁₆) x (CSR₅₀ x CSR₅₁) (0.363 g) shown superior performance over the control treatment (CSR₂ x CSR₄) x (G₃ x G₂) (0.356 g). the hybrid BL₆₇ x CSR₅ (0.318 g) shows lowest shell weight. Shinde (2010) [8] and Vidhate (2009) observed that hybrid CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇ recorded maximum shell weight of (0.391 g) and (0.393 g) respectively over rest of hybrids.

The maximum shell percentage was recorded in (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ (21.09 per cent) and minimum shell percentage was recorded in BL₆₇ x CSR₅ (19.61 per cent) hybrid. Bobade (2019) [1] observed the shell ratio in hybrid CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇ (24.17 per cent) which was maximum than other hybrids. Kumar (2003) [5] observed the shell ratio in DHP₅ 921.8 per cent).

The bivoltine hybrid (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ recorded highest filament length (1140 m) followed by the hybrid (CSR₂ x CSR₄) x (S₈ x CSR₁₆) (1096 m). Only two hybrids (S₈ x CSR₁₆) x (CSR₅₀ x CSR₅₁) (783.33 m) and BL₆₇ x CSR₅ (793.33 m) shown non-significant filament length values to control treatment (CSR₂ x CSR₄) x (G₃ x G₂) (840 m). Tekule (2018) [9] observed the filament length of hybrid DHP₅ (987 m) and CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇ (937.67 m) which was significant than other hybrids.

The filament weight was varied from 0.294 to 0.322 g. The highest filament weight of T₄ hybrid (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ (0.322 g). The significantly lowest filament weight was observed in BL₆₇ x CSR₅ (0.294 g) and (S₈ x CSR₁₆) x (CSR₅₀ x CSR₅₁) (0.298 g). Bobade (2019) [1] recorded the highest filament weight of hybrid CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇ (0.331 g) and DHP₅ (0.261 g).

Table 1: Performance of single and double hybrids of silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) for Single cocoon weight, Single Shell weight, Shell ratio, Filament length and Filament weight.

Tr. No.	Treatments	Single cocoon weight (g)	Single Shell weight (g)	Shell ratio (%)	Filament length (m)	Filament weight (g)
T ₁	BL ₆₇ x CSR ₅	1.54	0.318	19.61	793.33	0.294
T ₂	SHP ₅ x DHP ₅	1.67	0.342	20.54	880.00	0.304
T ₃	DHP ₅ x SHP ₅	1.73	0.347	20.13	933.33	0.316
T ₄	(CSR ₁₆ x CSR ₁₇) x DHP ₅	1.92	0.403	21.09	1140.00	0.322
T ₅	(CSR ₂ x CSR ₄) x (S ₈ x CSR ₁₆)	1.70	0.357	20.97	1096.00	0.318
T ₆	(CSR ₄₆ x CSR ₄₇) x (S ₈ x CSR ₁₆)	1.79	0.367	20.57	980.00	0.309
T ₇	(S ₈ x CSR ₁₆) x (CSR ₅₀ x CSR ₅₁)	1.75	0.363	20.74	783.33	0.298
T ₈	(CSR ₂) x CSR ₄) x (G ₃ x G ₂)(C)	1.89	0.356	18.82	840.00	0.303
	Mean	1.74	0.356	20.34	930.74	0.308
	SE(M)	0.029	0.004	0.353	25.004	0.002
	CD at 5%	0.090	0.013	1.082	76.577	0.005

Conclusion

These research finding concluded that among all the eight treatment used for rearing T₄ i.e. (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ given the best results for economic traits. In aspect to better rearing of silkworm hybrids, (CSR₁₆ x CSR₁₇) x DHP₅ was found to outperform over all treatments.

Acknowledgement

This study was made possible with the help of Sericulture Research Unit, Department of Agricultural Entomology, VNMKV, Parbhani for providing necessary facilities for the experiment and my guide for their support and guidelines in conducting the experiment.

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