

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON LEAF EATING

CATERPILLAR (*Nephantis serinopa* Meyr.) -

A PEST OF COCONUT

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The leaf eating caterpillar, *Nephantis serinopa*, is one of the four major pests of coconut palms in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Burma. The pest in its larval stage inhabits the lower surface of the leaflets inside galleries and feed on the green tissues of the leaf. This reduces the functional tissues, as a result of which the photosynthetic activity of the palm is reduced, adversely affecting the production of nuts. The pest causes great damage to coconut palms growing along the coastal

areas and round about the back-water lakes.

Moth lays eggs on the under-surface of the leaflets. Each female lays from 60 to 250 eggs. Eggs hatch in about five days. The caterpillars feed voraciously. After feeding for 5 to 7 weeks they pupate, The pupal stage lasts about two weeks. The total period of one life cycle from egg to adult is about two months.

For the control of the pest, different methods have to be

adopted depending on the intensity of infestation. In mild outbreaks, method of cutting and burning of the leaves or biological method by releasing parasites can be adopted. In severe outbreaks, chemical control using Malathion 0.05% as spray can bring quick relief.

This bibliography has 65 entries contributed by 63 authors. The entries are arranged in alphabetical order of the name of the author(s) and serially numbered. An author index is also appended.

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