

## Biochemical and economic studies on two hybrids of silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.)

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### ABSTRACT

Silkworm is a typical monophagous insect and mulberry (*Morus* spp.) leaf is its sole feed. The current investigation aims to compare biochemical and economic characteristics of two hybrids of silkworms (*B. mori* L.). Two hybrids of *Bombyx mori*, (L.) (H1xKKxG2xV2) and (Giza B) silkworm larvae were fed on mulberry leaves *Morus indica* var kanava-2 planted in the experimental farm during the spring season for biochemical and economic studies. Mulberry leaves were offered four times per day. The imported hybrid (H1xKKxG2xV2) showed higher and consistent growth rates than the native hybrid (Giza B) for all the developmental stages. It can be concluded that the selection of strong hybrids from silkworm and feeding on a good variety of Indian cultivar *Morus alba* var. kanava-2 imported from Indian improves the growth value of biological and economic parameters.

**Keywords:** *Bombyx Mori* L.; Biochemical character; Silkworm.

### INTRODUCTION

*Bombyx mori* L. commonly known as mulberry silkworm reared on mulberry plant. It is a commercial exploited variety used on large scale production of silk Mahmoud (2013). One of the most important characteristics of the silkworm *B. mori* L. is its ability to switch plant proteins from feeding material to silk proteins. Silkworm is a typical monophagous insect and mulberry (*Morus* spp.) leaf is its sole food. Man has immensely benefited from the silk produced by silkworms and subsequently researchers have always been trying to unveil the factors that can be manipulated to the benefit of the silkworm rearers (Nair and Kumar 2004).

Mulberry leaf exclusively assures the growth and development of the silkworm larvae, being considered a complete value nutrient, so that the knowledge of its nutritional status is of great interest. The nutritional status of different mulberry varieties is ascertained by its biochemical constituents. Mulberry is rich source of protein, carbohydrate, carotenoids, lipids, ascorbic acid, anthocyanins etc. Physiological activity of the insect depends on haemolymph that is the only extra cellular fluid having diverse functions such as immunity, and as the reservoir for the products which are required for survival (Sowri and Sarangi, 2002). Also protein has an interesting biochemical role in the development, morphogenesis and almost in all intermediary metabolic pathways of insects and since they are the key organic constituent, their role in the compensatory mechanism of silkworm is

vital (Hiremath *et al.*, 2006; Ramakrishna and Jayaprakash, 2007).

Sericulture is one of the most important industries in several countries, however, in Egypt it is not well developed due to several factors; one of these is lack of good hybrid with high productivity. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate imported hybrids to determine their suitability to our climatic condition. The recent increase of domestic and international markets for silk production combined to the deep-rooted national traditions as well as the favorable climatic condition gives a push for developing the sericulture in Egypt as reported by Souad and Azza (2008).

Hence the aim of the current investigation is to evaluate biochemical and economic characteristics on two hybrids of silkworms, *B. mori* L..

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Silkworm eggs resources

We used eggs of the two silkworm (*B. mori* L.) hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2), produced by the Sericulture and Agriculture Experiment Station, Vratza, Bulgaria and Native Hybrid (Giza B).

#### Silkworm rearing technique

Silkworm eggs of the two hybrids were obtained from the Sericulture Research Department (SRD) of the Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI). Eggs were incubated in an incubator adjusted at 25±2°C and 75±5% R.H. Hatched larvae were transferred from the egg cards to the rearing

trays. Removal of fecal matter and diseased larvae as well as bed cleaning was done at regular intervals. Larvae were divided into two groups. Each group was fed four times a day on the fresh mulberry of *Morus indica* var kanava-2 variety. The young larvae (1<sup>st</sup> ± 3<sup>rd</sup> instars) were reared at 27 ± 2 ° C, 85 ± 5 % (R.H.) and the late age larvae (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> instars) were maintained at 24 ± 2 ° C with R.H. of 70 ± 5%. Each hybrid was reared in three replicates. At the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> instar, 300 larvae were counted from each hybrid and retained for further studies. Rearing was carried out under hygienic conditions according to Krishnaswami (1978). Larval weights of fifth instars were recorded at 7<sup>th</sup> day of 5<sup>th</sup> larval instar while larval haemolymph samples were collected at 6<sup>th</sup> day for biochemical analysis. The spinning larvae were collected manually and mounted in plastic collapsible montages. Observations on fecundity, fertility, hatchability percentage, pupal weight, pupation ratio, cocooning percentage, single cocoon and single shell weights, single cocoon shell ratio were recorded.

#### Bioassay assessment of silkworm.

##### Total proteins

Total proteins were determined by the method of Bradford (1976). The results were expressed as (mg/mL)

##### Free amino acids

Total amino acids were calorimetrically estimated by ninhydrin reagent according to the method described by Lee and Takabashi

(1966). Amino acids were expressed as mg D, L- alanine /mL.

##### Alkaline phosphatase (U/L)

Acid and alkaline phosphatases were determined according to the method described by Powell and Smith (1954). The enzyme activity is expressed by unit (U/L).

##### Transaminases (GOT and GPT)

Glutamic pyruvic transaminase (GPT) and glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (GOT) were determined calorimetrically according to the method of Reitman and Franke (1957). The enzyme activity is expressed as U/g body weight.

##### Statistical analysis

Data were subjected to t-test by using Costat program (1988) at probability level of P = 0.05.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Biological aspects.

The mean values of biological parameters of the imported and native hybrids were tabulated in Table (1). Larval duration was non - significantly shorter in imported hybrid compared with (26.5 days) and native hybrid (28.2 days). However, the mean weight of the fourth instar larvae was higher significantly (1.387g) in imported hybrid compared with native hybrid (1.109g). The mean weight of fifth instar larvae (immature and mature) of imported hybrids increased significantly (0.596 and 2.135g) compared to native hybrid (0.477 and 1.515g) respectively.

**Table 1.** Some biological aspects of two silkworm (*B. mori* L.) hybrids.

Silkworm hybrids	Larval duration (days)	Mean larvae weight(g)		
		Beginning of 4 <sup>th</sup> instar (10 larvae/ wt )	5 <sup>th</sup> instar larvae	
			Immature beginning ( larva / wt )	Mature end ( larva / wt )
Imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2)	26.5	1.387	0.596	2.135
Native hybrid (Giza B)	28.2	1.109	0.477	1.515
t value	2.96	10.801	134.55	14.491
P(t=0)	0.994 <sup>ns</sup>	0.008 <sup>**</sup>	0.001 <sup>***</sup>	0.004 <sup>***</sup>

### Fecundity, Fertility, Hatchability%, Pupal weight and Pupation ratio

As represented in Table (2) mean number of deposited eggs / female as reproductive index was varied between treatments. The fecundity was 330 eggs / female, with fertility

322.0 eggs / female, in imported hybrid and 305, eggs / female, and 287.67 egg / female for native hybrid with no significance in fecundity and fertility, respectively, egg hatching percentage/ laid by female moth resulted from larvae of imported and native

hybrids were 97.76 % and 94.31%, respectively. Pupal weight for imported and native hybrids recorded 0.716 & 0.612g and 0.845g & 0.740g for male and female, respectively, with high significant differences.

Pupation ratio for both sexes recorded were 95.87, 95.53% and 96.63, 96.07% for male and female of imported and native hybrids, respectively.

**Table 2.** Some biological aspects of two silkworm (*B. mori* L.) hybrids.

Silkworm hybrids	Fecundity(No)	Fertility (No)	Hatchability (%)	Pupal weight (g)		Pupation ratio (%)	
				Male	female	male	female
Imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2)	330.0	322.6	97.76	0.716	0.845	95.87	96.63
Native hybrid(Giza B)	305.0	287.67	94.31	0.612	0.740	95.53	96.07
t value	1.013	1.587	5.175	4.421	3.725	10.00	1.331
P(t=0)	0.417 <sup>ns</sup>	0.253 <sup>ns</sup>	0.035*	0.001**	0.004**	0.009**	0.314 <sup>ns</sup>

These finding are in accordance with Megalla *et al.* (1997) they reported that, significant positive variations were estimated among the different imported hybrids in biological and technological values compared with the Korean hybrid annually reared in Egypt.

These results are supported by those of Souad and Ghazy (2005) they reported that Thailand hybrids were good for breeding programs in Egypt, and they were superior for biological and cocoon characters.

Values of these results are consistent with Souad and Azza (2008) they found that the imported hybrids showed the best performance in most biological characters compared with the Egyptian hybrid. At the same trend, Prakash (1986) observed that estimation of different biological characters especially fecundity, fertility, hatchability and

cocooning % characters were linked with disease resistance and healthiness.

#### Economic characters.

Cocoon and cocoon crop characters linked to the economic aspects were determined and registered in Table (3). Data show that the imported hybrid was better than the local hybrid in economic characteristics, there was highly significant of fresh cocoon weights 0.883, 1.020g imported variety and 0.750, 0.884g for native variety male and female, respectively. The same trend for cocoon shell weights 0.172, 0.172g and 0.140, 0.143g for imported and native variety, respectively. The other tested parameters cocoon shell ratio with no significant in imported and native varieties 19.48, 16.80 and 18.54, 16.19% for male and female, respectively.

**Table 3.** Some economical characters of two hybrids of silkworm (*B. mori* L.).

Silkworm hybrids	Fresh Cocoon Weight (g)		Cocoon Shell Weight (g)		Cocoon Shell Ratio (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2)	0.883	1.020	0.172	0.172	19.48	16.86
Native hybrid(Giza B)	0.750	0.884	0.140	0.143	18.54	16.19
t value	4.469	3.683	2.787	3.747	0.847	0.993
P(t=0)	0.001**	0.005**	0.021*	0.004**	0.418 <sup>ns</sup>	0.346 <sup>ns</sup>

Rehab *et al.* (2017) recommended that superior hybrids of silkworm firstly need to evaluate these hybrids before their release into the field. Cocoon and cocoon crop characters linked to the economic aspects were significantly the highest cocoon shell ratio and randitta comparing to Thai 2 and Egyptian hybrid. These results are supported by those of Souad and Ghazy (2005) who reported that, Thailand hybrids were good for breeding

programs in Egypt, and they were superior for biological and cocoon characters. Also, pupa weights, pupation% and cocooning percentage exhibited the highest values with imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2) compared with the native hybrid. Imported hybrids showed good performance and remarkable superiority over the Egyptian hybrid therefore, it may be recommended to use these

imported hybrids in the breeding programs for the production of superior local hybrids.

Table (4) show that Silk productivity % (Cg / days) for imported and native hybrids were highly significant (1.71, 0.13 & 1.72, 0.12 for male and female, respectively) further, cocooning percentage were 97.53, 97.30%; and 97.30, 93.23 for male and female, respectively

with significant differences. These results are supported by those of Souad and Ghazy (2005), who reported that, Thailand hybrids were good for breeding programs in Egypt, and they were superior for biological and cocoon characters.

**Table 4.** Some economic parameters of two hybrids of *B. mori* L.

Silkworm hybrids	Silk prod.% (Cg./days)		Cocooning %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2)	1.71	1.72	97.53	97.30
Native hybrid(Giza B)	0.13	0.12	97.30	93.23
t value	29.310	31.611	1.079	1.00
P(t=0)	0.00***	0.00***	0.393 <sup>ns</sup>	0.422 <sup>ns</sup>

#### Biochemical analysis:

Results in Table (5) revealed that total protein, free amino acid, alkaline phosphatase, GOT, and GPT, was different two hybrids in *B. mori* haemolymph of 5<sup>th</sup> instar larvae fed on *Morus alba* var kanava-2 were no significant in total protein 109.4, 107.4 mg/mL for imported and native hybrid. While recorded was highly significant in free amino acid 687.7, 430.2 mg D, L-alanine /mL for imported and native hybrid. Alkaline phosphatases were 21.4, 11.4 U/L for imported and native hybrid. With highly significant for GOT and GPT were

254.4, 230 and 150.7, 117.7 U/L) for imported and native hybrid; respectively. The difference was non-significant, for GOT, and GPT.

These results are in agreement with Rajannan *et al.* (1994) and Rehab *et al.* (2017) they found that total protein concentration differed according to races. Both Thai hybrids 1 and 2 showed good performance and remarkable superiority over the Egyptian hybrid therefore, it may be recommended to use these imported hybrids in the breeding programs for the production of superior local hybrids.

**Table 5.** Some biochemical analysis of two hybrids of *B. mori*, L.

Parameters	Total protein (mg/mL)	Free amino acid(mg D,L-alanine /mL)	Alkaline phosphatase (U/L)	GOT (U/L)	GPT (U/L)
Imported hybrids (H1xKKxG2xV2)	109.4	687.7	21.4	254.4	150.7
Native hybrid(Giza B)	107.4	430.2	11.4	230	117.7
t value	0.405	13.562	7.8	2.444	2.494
P(t=0)	0.724 <sup>ns</sup>	0.005**	0.000**	0.134 <sup>ns</sup>	0.130 <sup>ns</sup>

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## دراسات بيوكيميائية واقتصادية لهجينين من دودة الحرير التوتية

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### الملخص العربي

دودة الحرير حشرة نموذجية وحيدة العائل النباتي والغذاء الوحيد لها ورق التوت. يهدف هذا البحث إلى مقارنة بين هجينين لدودة الحرير التوتية أحدهما مستورد (بلغاري) والآخر محلي. من حيث النواحي البيولوجية والإقتصادية والبيوكيميائية التي تظهر قوة أداء الهجين المستورد مقارنة بالهجين المصري. وقد أظهرت النتائج أن الهجين البلغاري المستورد كان أعلى معنوية من الهجين المحلي في بعض القياسات مثل وزن اليرقات في العمر الرابع والخامس ووزن العذارى ووزن الشرائق فارغه ونسبة الحرير الناتج وبعض الصفات البيوكيميائية مثل الأحماض الأمينية الحرة واللاكتين فوسفاتيز. بينما كان هناك بعض النتائج بين الهجين المستورد والمحلي لا يوجد بينها معنوية مثل فترة العمر البرق وعدد البيض الذي تضعه الأنثى ككل وعدد البيض المخصب ونسبة التعذير بالنسبة للإناث ونسبة التشرقق وكية البروتين الكلى والإنزيمات الناقلة للأحماض الأمينية (GPT, GOT). من خلال النتائج المتحصل عليها، قد يكون من الأفضل التوصية باستخدام هجين مستورد في برامج التربية لإنتاج هجين محلي متفوق من أجل الإعتماد عليه في برنامج التربية في مصر.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** دودة الحرير التوتية، الصفات البيولوجية، الدراسات الاقتصادية.