

NOTE:

- The products are most effective when applied during the early stages of the caterpillar's life.
- Similar control measures are recommended for Green Looper (*Epigynopteryx stictigramma*).

5.0 Highlights on Good Agricultural Practices and Health Safety

- Non-berry feeders indirectly affect the plant through either defoliation, reduced photosynthetic area or sucking of plant juices (food) hence resulting in low quality beans.
- Indiscriminate use of insecticides should be avoided to prevent pesticide residue accumulation
- Strictly observe guidelines on safe use of agrochemicals.



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Identification and Management of Giant Looper (*Ascotis selenaria eciprocaria*) in Coffee



1.0 Introduction

Giant looper is a major pest of coffee

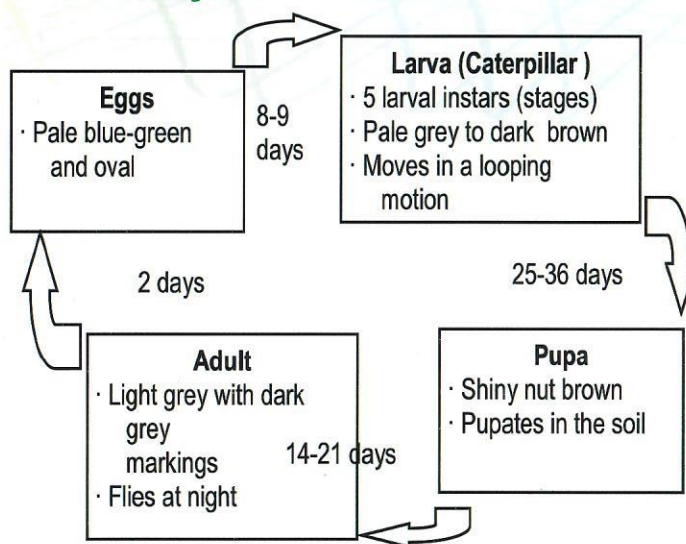
1.1 Identification and Symptoms

- It's pale grey to dark brown caterpillar resembling twigs .
- It moves with a looping motion
- Young caterpillars usually eat pits on the upper leaf surface.
- Older caterpillars feed on leaf margins leaving a Jagged edge.
- All stages of the caterpillar prefer tender and young leaves but berries and large flower buds may also be attacked.

2.0 Alternate Hosts

This insect attacks cultivated plants like groundnuts and sweet potatoes; some tree species like *Datura* and *Eucalyptus* as well as black jack weed.

3.0 Life Cycle



4.0 Management

4.1 Biological

- Naturally occurring parasitic wasps and flies parasitize the caterpillar by laying eggs on it.
- *Macroraphies spp* predate caterpillars.

4.2 Chemical

The economic injury level is 10 caterpillars on seedlings and young suckers or 20 caterpillars on a cropping coffee tree.

Spray with environmentally safe products like Insect Growth Regulators (IGR), Anti-feedants, or recommended insecticides.

Recommended insecticides

Spray mainly upper surface of leaves with:-

- *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Thuricide HP) at a rate of 200 g/ha or 4 g in 20 lt of water
- Fentin Hydroxide (Duter Extra) 47.5% WP at 30 - 60 g in 20 lt of water
- Delfin 64 WG at 5 g in 20 lt of water
- Xentari 30 WG at 10 g in 20 lt of water
- Fentine Acetate (Brestan) 60% WP at 30g in 20lt of water.
- Methomyl (Lannate) 90% SP at 12.5g in 20lt of water.
- Xentari (Theodicarb) 30% WG at 10g in 20 lt of water