

Indian Meal Moth (*Plodia interpunctella*) Larvae as a Parasitoid of Earth Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) Pupae

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Mass rearing of bumblebees in specially designed room under control condition can allow the pathogen and parasite out break. A low incidence of critical natural enemies is one of the criteria that effects the management potential of *Bombus terrestris*. For mass rearing experiment some colonies were taken from Koppert. During study some Indian meal moths were observed flying in these colonies and their larvae feeding on pupae of bumblebee were also observed. While this moth has already been recorded as a cereal pest and feeding pollen in bee hives. An experiment was designed to see the feeding preference of Indian meal moth. Equal quantity of pupae, and fresh pollen were provided to the larvae maintained at 28°C with 60% humidity. It has been observed that an average of 51.42% larvae preferred fresh pollen while 42.18% larvae preferred pupae of bumblebee as a feed. 6.38% natural mortality of larvae was found. The larvae which fed on pollen that pupate in pollen while the larvae preferred the pupae, feeding the entire body of immature pupae they came out for pupation. The result showed that the Indian meal moth is a parasitoid of bumblebee pupae. As it was observed that larvae can damage 100 % pupae of bumblebee in cases where pollens are not available. Larvae can therefore be regarded as the potential risk in destroying the bumblebee colonies.