

Distribution pattern of diamondback moth, *Plutella xylostella* (L.)(Lepidoptera: Plutellidae) on choy-sum plants

ABSTRACT

The distribution of all life-stages of *Plutella xylostella* (L.) on Choy-sum plants (*Brassica rapa* var. Spinach mustard) was investigated. The adults had a random distribution ($P > 0.05$), while the immature stages had a negative binomial (aggregated) distribution ($P > 0.05$). The adults and eggs were found mainly on the upper surface ($P < 0.001$) while the larvae (except the first instar) and pupae on the lower leaf surface ($P < 0.001$). The first instars were usually in the mines of leaves hollowed out by their feeding activities. The adults ($P < 0.05$), eggs ($P < 0.001$) and larvae ($P < 0.05$) were recorded mainly on the fully-opened leaves of intermediate age while the pupae ($P < 0.01$) on the oldest (also lowest) leaves. The larvae after hatching from eggs tended to clump together although they later dispersed as they grow, only to aggregate again during pupation.