



Abstract

The present study was carried out to determine the effect of bovine milk and honey (*Apis dorsata*) on the larval growth and silk cocoon yield of 5th instar larvae of *Bombyx mori*. Soon after hatching, the larvae were divided into two groups and named as Mi and Mm after the type of mulberry leaves provided to them for feeding. The Mi larvae ate mulberry leaves and had showed normal growth instinctive to them whereas, Mm larvae showed poor growth and low to high mortality within the initial 10 days. However, on conversion on *M. indica* after the 10th day, most of the affected larvae were recovered and passed the subsequent growth stages normally. In the second part of the experiment, 5th instar Mi larvae were divided into a control group and an experimental group. The experimental group was further divided into 7 sub-groups each comprised of 3 replicates containing 20 silkworms in each. The control group (Mi⁰) was continued on plain leaves of *M. indica* whereas the experimental groups were fed with mulberry leaves treated with various concentrations of milk and honey. Mm2 was fed with plain leaves of *M. macroura*. The result showed that larvae of the control group (Mi⁰) gained 204.59% whereas, larvae of experimental group i.e. Mi1, Mi2, Mi3, Mi4, Mi5, Mi6 and Mm2 gained 318.82%, 330.83%, 253.51%, 347.61%, 314.11%, 348.23% and 176.47% average weight on day 7 respectively. Cocoon weight of experimental groups (Mi1 to Mi6) increased by 9.09%, 13.23%, 9.65%, 13.63%, 11.66% and 15.34% respectively than that of the control. The result showed that the milk and honey have positive effect on the larval growth and cocoon yield of *B. mori*, however, *M. macroura* have negative effect on the larvae during the 1st and 2nd instar and larval growth including cocoon weight also decreased if the larvae fed with *M. macroura* during the 5th instar.