

Effect of mulberry cultivars and magnetic field on activity glutathione-s-transferase activity in midgut of *Bombyx Mori L.*

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Abstract

Six mulberry cultivars and five rearing methods were evaluated in Department of Entomology, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, and Akola during 2006-2007. For the study PM X CSR2 race of mulberry silkworm, *Bombyx mori L* was used. The data thus obtained was analysed in FCRD design with cultivar as Factor 'A' and rearing method (magnetic field) as Factor 'B'.

The pooled results indicated that silkworm reared on S13 mulberry cultivar for 12 h magnetic field (S13M12) had significant effect on the activity of detoxifying enzyme in larva of mulberry silkworm and observed maximum enzymetic activity in midgut for Glutathione-s-transferase was 8.038 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, over normal method of rearing on mulberry cultivar V1 in zero hour magnetic field (V1M0) in which minimum enzymetic activity in midgut for Glutathione-s-transferase was estimated as 3.970 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein.

Thus, the study indicated that for minimizing the larval mortality rate in silkworm larvae they should be reared on S13 cultivar of mulberry in 300 gauss magnetic field for 12 h every day.

Keywords: mulberry silkworm, magnetic field, Midgut and GST

Introduction

Silk is the most elegant textile fibre in the world with unparalleled grandeur, natural sheen, inherent affinity for dyes, high absorbance, light weight, soft touch, high durability, fineness and is the unique strongest fiber. Hence, called "Queen of Textiles" in the world (Ramana, 1987).

Silk is amongst the few commodities having worldwide importance. According to western mythology, silk industry is supposed to be originated in China since 2640 B.C. and later spread to the other countries. But Indian mythology gives evidences about the use of silk garments from the era of Lord Ganesha, where in the silk garments were known as "Dev Vastra" and were the mark of peace, richness, elegance, cleanliness and royalty (Nimbalkar and Aherkar, 2005) [33].

In the world there are 58 silk producing countries, out of which China is the leading producer of silk, producing 120256 MT of silk followed by India 16329 and Japan 394 MT. Though India is the second largest silk producing country but it is a unique country in the world producing four different type of silk on economical basis i.e. Mulberry silk, Tasar silk, Muga silk and Eri silk. Amongst these four type of silk, major lion share is of Mulberry silk followed by Eri silk, Tasar silk and Muga silk in 91.7, 6.4, 1.4 and 0.5 per cent (Bhaskar, 2007) [12].

In India sericulture is practiced in eleven states, creating employment for 6, and 15,068 peoples, practiced in 57,936 villages of India. In India mulberry is planted on 1,94,463 ha of land producing 1,28,181 tons of silk and earning foreign exchange upto the extent of Rs. 2294.05 lack (Nimbalkar and Aherkar, 2005) [33].

In India the major silk producing states are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Jammu and Kashmir contributing 65.74, 19.19, 8.92, 4.27 and Per cent share in silk production, respectively (Anonymous,

2000) [9].

In Maharashtra Tasar silkworm rearing is practice from long back in Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia district and mulberry silkworm rearing has been initiated from 1990's and is slowly becoming popular in this region due to high economic return from this crop. In Vidarbha sericulture is practice in Buldhana, Washim, Akola, Amravati, Yeotmal, Wardha and Nagpur district with total area of mulberry plantation upto 575.00 ha and annual production 683.97 kg silk (Anonymous, 2008) [11].

Agriculture is the prime occupation of India in which nowadays sericulture is replacing important crops. According to Ramana (1987) mulberry has replaced sugarcane in Karnataka, fruit crops in Jammu and Kashmir, Jute in West Bengal, grapes in Andhra Pradesh and several other crops including rice and wheat. Similarly, in Vidarbha in days to come mulberry will be competing with cotton cultivation and replacing cotton in Vidarbha.

Mulberry leaf protein is the chief source for the silkworm to bio-synthesize the silk which is made up of two proteins fibroin and sericin. Nearly 70 per cent of the silk proteins produced by the silkworm is directly derived from the proteins of mulberry leaves (Rangaswami *et al.* 1976) [40]. Silkworm consumes 81 per cent of the food in fifth instar where in need of matured leaf is desired (Krishnaswami, 1987) [27]. Since larvae consumes maximum food in 5th instar stage the enzymetic activity is studied in the 5th instar of silkworm larvae Jadhao and Kallapur (1988).

Morphological, physiological and biochemical alterations occurs if living organisms when exposed to magnetic field (Patnev and Mankova, 1986) [35] observed influences of magnetic field on migratory and exploratory behaviours of bees.

Chougale and More (1993) [16] exposed silkworm to electromagnetic field and observed changes in biology of

silkworm etc.

Increase in the haemocytic cells in haemolymph of mulberry silkworm was observed by Aherkar and Satpute (2005) [1]. There was increase in hormone and insulin levels in rat which was observed by (Udinstev and Moroz, 1982) [47]. Increase in the activity of acid phosphatase in mouse tissue was observed by (Conley *et al.* 1966) [17].

The previous study conducted with the help of electromagnetic field (Chougale and More 1992 and 1993) [15, 16] had positive effect on economic parameters, acid and alkaline phosphatase and silk gland of silkworm. In the present study the permanent magnet were used to study the effect on various economic factor and enzymetic activity. The study indicated that rearing of silkworm in 300 gauss magnetic field for 12 h had positive effect on silkworm.

Magnetic field play important role in increasing the RBC count in human being if exposed. It also plays an important role in disease and disability management in human being Rathi (2003) [41]. Keeping in view the same points, this study has been planned to study the effect of food and magnetic field on the silkworm to increase the output of silk fiber and to study the effect on enzymetic activity and protein content in the silk gland.

Efforts are always made by many workers to increase cocoon yield and cocoon weight by spraying or dipping of mulberry leaf in chemicals and increasing the nutritive values of mulberry leaf. But in present study a separate view has been evaluated for increasing the disease resistance and enzymetic activity in midgut and haemolymph due to the rare of silk worm larvae in magnetic field on following objective.

Objectives of Study

To study the effect of cultivars magnetic field and on activity of Glutathione-s- transferase in midgut of *B. mori*

The data collected during the study was recorded and subjected to statistical analysis and the results obtained are discussed with available literature.

Material and Methods

The experiment was conducted during 2006 and 2007 in the Sericulture laboratory and Insect Biotechnology Laboratory, Department of Entomology, Dr.

PDKV, Akola. The material used and methods adopted during the course of present investigations are described below

Material Required

Standards silkworm raring materials and laboratory cleaning chemicals/reagents were used for silkworm rearing. Magnetic field required for silkworm rearing was prepared by placing the magnets in the tray with North Pole facing upward direction and South Pole is downward and the paraffin paper was placed over the magnets. After hatching of the eggs rearing of larvae was under taken as per the scheduled treatments.

Protein Estimation

- Phosphate buffer – 0.1 M / lit (pH 7.0)
Sodium hydroxide – 0.2 M / lit
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate – 0.2 M/lit
Distilled water – 100 ml
- 0.15 N NaCl
- 1 x Bradford reagent

- Enzyme stock
- BSA (Bovine Serum Albumin) for preparing standard of BSA (from Sigma chemicals)

Enzyme Analysis

- Dissection buffer :
100 ml Sodium phosphate buffer SPB 0.1 M (pH 7.0)
1.5 kg KCl
- Homogenization buffer
1000 ml to phosphate buffer 0.1 M, pH 6.5, 0.292 g EDTA (Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetic Acid)
0.304 g PTU (Phenyl Thio Urea) 1 m M
0.174 g PMSF (Phenyl Methyl Sulphonyl fluoride 1 m M)
- Quantification of glutathione – s – transferase
 - Reduced glutathione 50 mM
 - Sodium phosphate buffer (SPB) 0.1 M, pH 6.5 + 1 mM EDTA
 - CDNB (2,4 dinitro – chlorobenzene 50 mM) in ethanol 50 mM
 - Enzyme stock

Preparation of Midgut Sample for Protein Estimation and Gst Estimation

Two larvae of fifth instar were randomly selected from each treatment and kept in deep freez at -20⁰ C for about 12 h to avoid the loss of protein and enzyme activity. Later on the midgut was removed along with its content and tissue homogenate with 10 ml of ice cold 0.1 M borate buffer at pH 11 were prepared. The homogenate of tissue was centrifuged in high speed refrigerated centrifuge for 15 minutes at 3000 rpm. The supernatant were used as a protein and.

Quantification of Protein from Midgut

The protein of midgut homogenate and haemolymph of *B. mori* larvae was quantified by Bradford method (Bradford, 1976) using microplate assay (Plate 5).

Procedure for Estimation of Protein by Micro-Plate Assay Is As Followed

- Dye reagent was prepared by diluting 5 Bradford reagent with 4 parts of distilled water.
- 10 ul of protein sample was taken in microplate well
- 10 ul of NaCl solution (0.15 N) was added to each well
- To this 200 ul of 1 Bradford reagent was added and incubated for 15 min at room temperature.
- Similarly one blank (with no protein) was also maintained
- The absorbance was measured at 600 nm
- Each samples were replicated in four times to minimize the error.

Calculations

Absorbance of blank (without protein) is subtracted from absorbance of protein sample and resulting absorbance is multiplied by factor of 6.75 it gives protein per 10 ul sample.

i.e. = O.D. (protein) – O.D. (Blank) x 6.75 protein μ l / 10 μ l

Quantification of Glutathione-s-transferase activity from midgut

GST estimation was carried out by Kao *et al.* (1989).

Details of experiment

Design: Factorial Complete Randomized Design (FCRD)
 Replication: Four
 Silkworm race: PM x CSR₂
 No. of larvae per treatment: 200
 No. of treatments: 30

Treatments detail

Factor I (Six varieties)

T1: S-1635
 T2: M-5
 T3: S-13
 T4: S-36
 T5: S-34
 T5: S-34

Factor II (Rearing method)

M0: Rearing of silkworm in non-magnetic field
 M3: Rearing of silkworm in 3 h magnetic field daily
 M6: Rearing of silkworm in 6 h magnetic field daily
 M12: Rearing of silkworm in 12 h magnetic field daily
 M24: Rearing of silkworm in 24 h magnetic field daily

Statistical analysis

Data obtained were subjected to statistical analysis after appropriate transformation wherever essential (Gomez and Gomez, 1976).

Results and Discussion**Glutathione S-Transferase (GST) in Midgut Effect of Cultivars on GST in Midgut. (Factor A)****Pooled**

Pooled data of both the trials and results presented in Table 8 & Fig. 8 indicate that, in cultivar S13 possessed maximum 6.326 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut of silkworm larvae. It was significantly least (5.394 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein) GST when the larvae were fed on V1 cultivar and was at par with treatments M5 and S36 in which 5.437 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 5.524 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST was recorded in midgut, respectively. The next best treatments in which maximum GST was observed were S34 and S1635 recording 5.945 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 5.834 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut, respectively.

When the silkworm larvae were reared on S13 cultivar maximum protein was observed in midgut which reflected in GST studies of midgut protein, recording maximum GST (6.311 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein) in S13 treatment. But no study could be reviewed in this connection that mulberry cultivar has significant effect on GST of silkworm and hence could not be compared.

Effect of magnetic field on GST midgut (Factor B)**Pooled**

Pooled results of two rearing also indicate, similar trend of GST activity in magnetic field and non-magnetic field treatment. Significantly maximum GST

7.458 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein was observed in M12 treatment and was significantly superior over all the treatments (Table 1). Significantly minimum GST 4.120 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein was

recorded in non-magnetic field treatment (M0).

Treatment M6 was second in order of merit in which 6.301 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut was observed and was followed by treatment M24 and M3 where 5.784 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 5.053 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST activity was recorded.

There was increase in GST due to rearing of silkworm larvae in 12 h magnetic field than that of 24h, 6h, 3h and 0 h magnetic field. But the results of present findings couldn't be compare due to paucity of literature.

Interaction Effect of Cultivars and Magnetic Field on GST in Midgut. (Factor A x B)**Pooled**

Pooled data of both the trials presented in Table 8 & Fig. 8 revealed that, silkworm larvae reared on S13 cultivar for 12 h in magnetic field (i.e. S13M12) treatment was significantly superior over all the treatments and recorded highest 8.038 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut of silkworm larvae. However, this

Treatment was at par with S1635M12, M5M12, S34M6 recording 7.962 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 7.671 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 7.426 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut respectively. Treatments, S34M12, S36M12, V1M12, S13M6, and S1635M24 observed 7.271

$\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 6.943 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 6.861 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 6.810 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 6.683 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein in midgut and was the next group of treatment recording maximum GST in midgut of silk worm larvae found at par with each other.

Treatments S13M24 (6.353 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), S1635M6 (6.043 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), S36M6 (5.973 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), V1M6 (5.932 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein) and S13M3 (5.760 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein) in midgut and were at par with each other. The latter two treatments were also at par with M5M6 (5.623 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), V1M24 (5.482 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), S34M24 (5.481 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), S36M24 (5.400 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein), M5M24 (5.326 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein) and S36M3 (5.272 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein). Significantly least GST in midgut was observed in the treatments S1635M0 and was at par with M5M0, V1M0 and S36M0 recording 3.592 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 3.595 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 3.970 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 4.032 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST in midgut of silkworm larvae. However, to this treatment treatments, S34M0, S1635M3, S1635M3, S13M0, V1M3, M5M3, S34M3 were significantly superior in which 4.506 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 4.531 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 4.670 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 4.727 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein, 4.972 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein and 5.060 $\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein GST was observed in the midgut of silkworm larvae. The study indicates that cultivar and magnetic field both have influence on GST in the protein in midgut of silkworm. If the silkworm were not reared in the magnetic field this was reduction in GST in midgut. Which plays an important role in imparting immunity in the insect and hence along with a good cultivar if the silkworms are reared in the magnetic field there is increase in GST in midgut which automatically impart resistance in insect. However this study couldn't be compared with other such type of studies due to paucity of literature.

Table 1: Effect of cultivars and magnetic field on GST in midgut of full grown larvae ($\mu\text{M mg}^{-1}$ protein)

Cultivars	A First trial						B Second trial						C Pooled					
	Interaction						Interaction						Interaction					
	M0	M3	M6	M12	M24	Fact A	M0	M3	M6	M12	M24	Fact A	M0	M3	M6	M12	M24	Fact A
S1635	4.367	5.392	6.715	7.942	6.640	6.211	3.537	3.670	5.372	7.750	6.727	5.411	3.952	4.531	6.043	7.962	6.683	5.834
M5	4.240	6.475	5.512	8.187	5.495	5.982	2.950	3.470	5.735	7.155	5.157	4.893	3.595	4.972	5.623	7.671	5.326	5.437
S13	4.807	6.470	7.127	8.327	6.590	6.664	4.532	5.050	6.492	7.982	6.117	6.035	4.670	5.760	6.810	8.038	6.353	6.326
S36	3.637	5.640	6.132	6.780	5.297	5.497	4.427	4.905	5.815	7.107	5.502	5.551	4.032	5.272	5.973	6.943	5.400	5.524
S34	4.705	5.310	6.975	7.057	5.350	5.879	4.307	4.810	7.877	7.485	5.572	6.010	4.506	5.060	7.426	7.271	5.461	5.945
V1	4.365	5.060	6.780	6.775	5.555	5.707	3.575	4.395	5.085	6.947	5.410	5.082	3.970	4.727	5.932	6.861	5.482	5.394
Factor B	4.353	5.724	6.540	7.511	5.821		3.888	4.383	6.062	7.404	5.747		4.121	5.053	6.301	7.458	5.784	

Table 2

	Fact A	Fact B	Fact A x B	Fact A	Fact B	Fact A x B	Fact A	Fact B	Fact A x B
'F' test	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.
S.E. (m) \pm	0.131	0.120	0.294	0.132	0.120	0.295	0.108	0.098	0.241
C.D. at 5 %	0.369	0.337	0.825	0.370	0.338	0.828	0.302	0.276	0.676

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