

Formulation of artificial diet using boiled form of dehusked cereals and pulses against rice armyworm *Mythimna separata* (Walker) (Lepidoptera : Noctuidae)

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ABSTRACT : The use of artificially reared colonies of insect is a common practice in fundamental research of Entomology. Formulation of a suitable diet for mass rearing of insects is necessary for the production of insects in large number in the laboratory. Insect Growth Regulator properties have been reported in the artificial diet developed for laboratory mass rearing of *Mythimna separata* using boiled form of nine different kinds of cereals and pulses. Semi synthetic diet is a prerequisite for maintaining mass culture of insects as the required host plants are not available round the year.

Key Words : Rice ear cutting caterpillar (*Mythimna separate*), insect growth regulator (IGR), artificial diet, dehusked, boiled, cereals and pulses.