

STUDIES ON THE BIOLOGY OF WEBBER *PEMPELIA MOROSALIS* SAALM ULLER (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) ON *JATROPHA CURCAS*

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ABSTRACT : The studies on biology of webber, *Pempelia morosalis* SaalmUller. revealed 5 stages namely egg, larvae, prepupa, pupa and adult. The male moth was slightly smaller than the female with pointed abdomen. The mean larval period lasted for 29.33 days with five instars. The newly hatched larvae measured 0.2 cm in length and 0.10 cm in width. Full grown larvae measured 1.90 cm in length and 0.30 cm in width with dark brownish green in colour. There was a pre pupal stage, which lasted from one to three days. The pupae were dark brown in colour with elongated tapering ends. It was covered in silk, frass or excreta The mean length and width of the pupa was recorded to be 0.90 cm and 0.30 cm, respectively The mean pupal period recorded was of 9.33 days and the mean life cycle was of 42.66 days.

Key words : *Adult, Eggs, Larvae, Pupa*