

OVIPOSITION BEHAVIOUR AND FECUNDITY OF EGG LAYING IN GALL PRODUCING INSECTS *RHOPALOMYIA BAIJALI MANI* (CECIDOMYIIDAE: DIPTERA) IN GARHWAL HIMALAYA

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ABSTRACT

Two to six life cycle of a female is observed during one year period depending upon the altitudinal and climatic variation in the field. It is extended by the length of the insect body and the pointed tip struck several times upon the newly formed buds of the host plant *Artemisia vulgaris* in search of suitable site for oviposition. Egg laying process occurs after 15 to 32 minutes of copulation and continued for 7 to 32 hours. Female activity searches the delicate leaves (tender leaves) and buds for the egg laying. Maximum about 70% of egg were laid down during morning hours from 8 to noon and rest afternoon hours mostly from 2 to 5pm. Maximum 132 eggs were laid by female in 8 to 16 deliveries. The rate of egg laying decreases as the number of deliveries increases.

Keywords: Oviposition, Gall Insect.

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