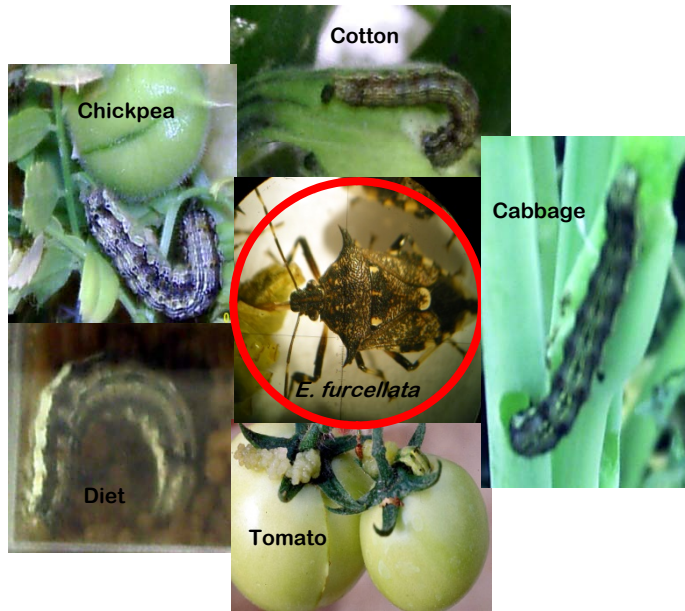


# Predation efficiency of *Eocanthecona furcellata* on *Helicoverpa armigera* larvae reared on different host plants

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## Introduction

- ⇒ The predatory pentatomid bug *Eocanthecona furcellata* (Wolff) (EO) is regarded a potential biological control agent against lepidopteran pests in Southeast Asia
- ⇒ The noctuid *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) (ABW) is a highly polyphagous agricultural pest, especially in cotton, chickpea and tomato in Myanmar

## Hypothesis

- ⇒ Moth larval feeding on different host plants (cotton, cabbage chickpea or tomato plants) or an artificial diet will influence acceptance of the larvae by the bug EO

## Methods

- ⇒ We used ten starved male and female EO adults per experiment
- ⇒ ABW larvae were fixed with tape and placed randomly in small plastic boxes; ten EO adults were transferred in the centre of each arena
- ⇒ In a second series ABW larvae and their faeces were wrapped with Para film and tested as mentioned above
- ⇒ Prey selection behavior of EO adults was recorded at room temperature

## Results

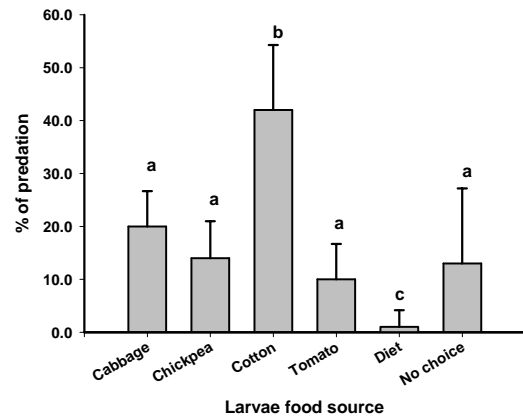


Fig.1 Food choice of *E.furcellata* on the larvae of *H. armigera* (unwrapped) ANOVA, P = 0.01

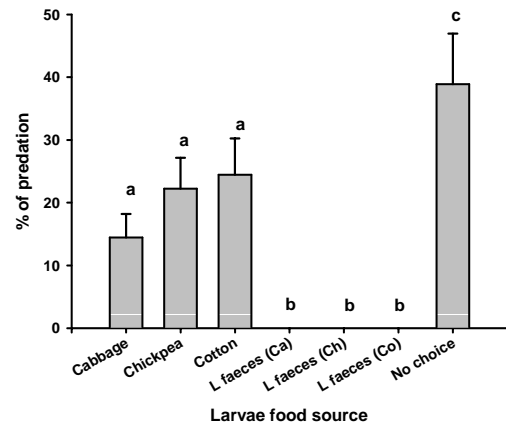


Fig. 2 Food choice of *E.furcellata* on the larvae of *H. armigera* (wrapped) ANOVA, P = 0.01

## Conclusion

- ⇒ EO adults preferred to prey on ABW larvae reared on cotton plants in both experiments
- ⇒ Based on these data we recommend to release the predatory bug *Eocanthecona furcellata* in cotton fields as a biocontrol agent for controlling *Helicoverpa armigera* in Myanmar

## Acknowledgement

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