

# Study the mass culture, biology and predatory potential of Australian Lady Bird Beetle, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulstant (Coccinellidae: Coleoptera)

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## ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted to study the mass culture, biology and predatory potential of Australian lady bird beetle, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* on pink mealy bug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*. Predatory potential and development period of *C. montrouzieri* grub was studied on the adult mealybug and the duration of first, second third and fourth instar of *C. montrouzieri* was found to be 3.10, 4.20, 4.60 and 7.60 days, respectively when they were fed with *M. hirsutus*. The predator completed its grub development in 19.50 days on mealybug. The mean number of mealybug adult consumed during first, second, third and fourth grub instar of *C. montrouzieri* averaged to 24.20, 28.38, 44.04 and 90.52, respectively. The results revealed that this predator feeds voraciously on adult mealybug. *C. montrouzieri* having a remarkable predatory potential can be used to reduce population of mealybug which will result in increasing the yield of crops.

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