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Feeding potential of *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulsant on different species of mealybugs

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted to study the feeding potential of *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulsant on different species of mealybugs at Department of Agricultural Entomology, College of Agriculture, Dapoli. The feeding potential of *C. montrouzieri* on grubs and adults of mealy bugs jointly revealed that the total consumption of grub was much higher on *M. hirsutus i.e.* 144.4±15.64 with their longevity of 12.10±2.1 days than *Phenacoccus solani* and custard apple mealy bugs. Similar pattern of consumption was found in case of adults, where the female predator consumed more *i.e.* 443.90±27.13 with longevity of 27.45±1.08 days. The overall findings of the feeding potential showed that the Australian ladybird beetle nymphs and adults consumed more number of preys of *M. hirsutus* than other two species.

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