A New Record of *Ergolis Merione* Cramer (*Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae*), As a Pest of Castor in Gujarat

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Castor, *Ricinus communis* L. is an important oilseed crop in Gujarat. Among various insect pests infesting this crop, the larvae of *Ergolis merione* Cramer were also found damaging this crop at the Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh during 1975. This is the first record of occurrence of this pest on castor from Gujarat.

E. merione Cramer, commonly known as a castor butterfly, was found to infest the folliage of the castor at the Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh. Earlier, this insect was recorded as a pest of castor in Tamil Nadu. (Ramkrishna Ayyar 1936) and in Pusa (Isaac 1936). Ghosh (1924) observed this pest damaging the castor crop in Burma.

The eggs are round and white and are laid singly on the lower surface of the leaves. The larvae hatched from the eggs were green, cylindrical and armoured with branching spines. They pupated either on the leaf or branches of the castor plants in nature and on the surface of glass jars or leaf in the laboratory. The pupal period varied from 8 to 10 days with an average of 8·60 days when the average minimum and maximum temperatures were 22·31° and 24·35° C respectively. The butterfly was snuff coloured with black zigzag lining on fore and hind wings. There were white dots on the costal margin near the apex of the fore-wings.

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