

The influence of restricted food supplies on the development of larvae and on the fecundity of *Palembus dermestoides* fairn. (Tenebrionidae)

ABSTRACT

The effects of the amounts of food available to larvae and to adults were investigated in *Palembus dermestoides* Fairn. The quantities provided for larvae were 1, 2, 5, 10 mg/larva/week but these were raised to 100 mg/pair/week when adults emerged, and those for the adults were 20, 50, 100, 200, 400 and 1000 mg/pair/week. Scarcity of food prolonged the larval developmental period, increased instar number, increased mortality, prolonged the preovisposition period and reduced future fecundity. The adults given little food also laid fewer eggs.