A new record of Jack fruit borer, *Diaphania caesalis* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) from Chhattisgarh, India


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The jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.) is a tropical evergreen tree, originally native to Indian subcontinent, now widely cultivated in the tropics of both hemispheres (Ochas *et al.*, 1981). Jackfruit, commonly known as the poor man's food, is used in various ways in South India. It is consumed in the ripe form as a delicious fruit and in unripe form as a vegetable. Jackfruit borer, *Diaphania caesalis* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) is considered as the one of the major pest of Jackfruit, which reduces both the quality and quantity of fruit. It is a very common pest in India and Bangladesh.

Jack shoot and fruit borer, *Diaphania caesalis*, is a destructive lepidopteron insect pest. It was originally described by Walker (1859) as *Glyphodes caesalis* sp. nova; subsequently, it was transferred to genus *Margaronia*, and then to genus *Palpita* and finally, Wang (1963) placed it under genus *Diaphania*.

Fletcher (1914) reported *G. caesalis* as a pest of jackfruit in Karnataka and Maharashtra. It is also recorded from Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu and Kerala of India (Chowdhury and Majid, 1954; Prarthna *et al.*, 2014; Soumya *et al.*, 2015). It has also been reported from Borneo, Burma, Sri Lanka (Hampson, 1986) and Bangladesh (Alam *et al.*, 1964). Thirty-five species of insect pests have been recorded on jackfruit from India. However, the important of them are shoot and fruit borer (*Diaphania caesalis*), mealybugs (*Drosicha mangiferae* and *Nipaecoccus viridis*), bark eating caterpillar (*Indarbela tetraonitis*), stem borer (*Batocera rufomaculata*), aphid (*Greenidia artocarpi*), scale insect (*Semelaspidus artocarpi*) and spiraling whitely. The among the insect pests shoot and fruit borer, *D. caesalis*, is one of the major insect pests of jackfruit in India (Tandon, 1998).

Jack shoot fruit borer as an important pest of jackfruit in East Pakistan (Alam, 1962). It is the major insect pest of jackfruit in Bangladesh (Karim, 1995). Khan *et al.* (2003) observed that all the three local types of jackfruit viz. Khaja, Dorsa and Gola are equally susceptible and frequently infested by jackfruit borer. It was also reported that, on an average 27.44% jackfruit is infested by *D. caesalis* in Bangladesh (Khan and Islam, 2004).

A field survey on insect pests of jackfruit was conducted at R. M. D. College of Agriculture and Research Station, Ambikapur during 2015 – 16. For the survey, six different blocks of Surguja district are selected. Fruit samples were collected randomly from each block. The fruit borer was found as nuisance cause 15 to 18 per cent fruit loss on mean basis of 6 block of Surguja. This paper presents new record of *D. caesalis* from Chhattisgarh.

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Infested fruit with larva of *D. caesalis*  
Adult moth of *D. caesalis*

**Infested shoot**

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