

Cultural Management of *Larvacarus transitans* (Ewing) in Rajasthan

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Ber is one of the most common fruit trees grown under agroclimatic conditions of Rajasthan. The phytophagous mite, *Larvacarus transitans* (Ewing) is reported to be a major pest of 'ber' (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.) orchards which forms galls on the growing shoots, causing considerable damage to the *ber* orchards (Latif & Wali 1961). The mites enclosed within the galls suck cell sap from the tissues and affect the plant growth adversely. No information on the effect of pruning for the control of this pest is available,

The pruning operation of *ber* twigs was adjusted with the emergence of the mites from the galls. Accordingly, the twigs were pruned at four levels viz., upto the 4th, 6th and 8th secondary levels as also complete pruning of *Gola variety of ber* in the first week of April 1989. The number of galls formed before (April) and after pruning (October) was recorded on 25 twigs. The reduction in the intensity of gall formation was subsequently calculated.

Pruning of branches upto the 4th secondary level reduced the infestation of mites by 46.02% compared to 79.64% in case of 6th secondary level. Pruning upto the 8th secondary level and complete pruning gave a reduction upto 96.32 and 100.00% respectively. Evidently pruning upto the 8th secondary level can safely be considered as an effective measure for reducing the infestation of the pest as it also did not affect the fruit bearing. Pruned *ber*

Table 1 Reduction in gall intensity consequent to the pruning

Levels of pruning	Per cent reduction in gall intensity (average)
4th Secondary	50.10 (40.02)
6th Secondary	79.64 (63.12)
8th Secondary	90.32 (72.00)
Complete	100.00 (90.00)
SEm±	0.7107
CD at 5%	2.14

Figures in parentheses are angular values of percentage.

trees were free from the infestation of *L. transitans* (Latif & Wali 1961). Pruning of branches upto 60 cm length/8th secondary level provided an effective control of *L. transitans* infesting *ber* in Rajasthan.

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References

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