

Method of Rearing Larvae and Some Aspects of the Biology and Control of Cocoa Stem Borer *Eulophonotus myrmeleon* (Felder)

M. ABEBE

Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO), Jima Research Center,
P.O.Box 192, Jima, Ethiopia

ABSTRACT

Difficulty of rearing the larvae of the Cocoa stem borer – *Eulophonotus myrmeleon* (Felder) and thereby getting the adult insect for proper identification had remained a problem for many years. Early instar larvae of the cocoa stem borer, collected from field at Jimma research center, were laboratory reared using freshly cut coffee branches for determining the duration and dimension of the different developmental stages. The identity and role of larval parasites was also determined. The result indicates that the average larval, pupal and adult stage is 202.8 ± 12.4 , 16.4 ± 0.93 and 6.1 ± 0.5 days respectively. Two parasites, namely *Bathyaylax* sp. and an unidentified species were recovered. The earlier attacked 24% and the latter 2.6% of the larvae collected. Method of rearing larvae, some features including dimension of the different stages of the insect is described. The integration of parasites and a physical means in the control of the insect is also described.