

The Biology and Feeding Behavior of the Coffee Berry Borer, *Hypothenemus hampei* (Ferrari) (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) and its Economic Importance in Southwestern Ethiopia

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SUMMARY

The biology and feeding behavior of the coffee berry borer, *Hypothenemus hampei* (Ferrari) (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) and its economic importance in southwestern Ethiopia was studied on coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) in the field and laboratory. The results showed that egg to adult development period took 24 to 43 days with mean of 31.7 ± 0.8 days. Oviposition started on 7-12 days after emergence of female borer. Female borer significantly preferred laying inside the parchment of berry (44% of eggs) ($P < 0.05$). Highly significant and positive correlation was found between age of berry and number of eggs laid ($r = 0.87$, $P < 0.01$). There was no significant difference in percent egg mass between dry leftover and fallen berries ($\chi^2 = 0.22$, $P > 0.05$). Most of the borers used the apex to enter the berry. Under field observations, 1-6 entrance holes per damaged berry were observed and 1-55 adult borers were recorded per damaged berry. On the average, a female borer spends 5.8 hr to enter the berry. Mean percent damaged berries in the surveyed areas ranged from 8-60%.