

The Developmental Biology, Morphometrics and Damage Assessment of *Epicampoptera strandi* Bryk. Sub sp. *glauca* Hmps. (Lepidoptera: Drepanidae) on Robusta coffee in Nigeria

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SUMMARY

Some aspects of the biology and body morphometrics of the tailed caterpillar, *Epicampoptera strandi* as well as the damage inflicted on leaves of *Coffea canephora* were investigated in the laboratory at ambient temperature and relative humidity. Freshly laid field-collected egg pillars of *Epicampoptera strandi* reared in the laboratory had a mean eclosion period of 4 days. The larval stages passed through five instars with a mean total larval period of 18 days while the mean development period from egg to adult was 28.8 days. The life stages were each measured and described while the damage caused by each instar larva was reported. The last instar larva was found to be the most destructive and consumed an average percentage leaf area of 88.4% per day. The growth ratio for each instar larva was calculated and the head capsule measurements increased by an average factor of 1.7. The short developmental period, coupled with high fecundity and pattern of egg-laying as observed from this work makes *E. strandi* an important economic insect pest of robusta coffee in Nigeria.