



Predators of Silkworm

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Ant

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Formicidae

Attack in gregarious forms i.e., in groups and are also considered as predator of silkworm during rearing, spinning, preservation cocoons before marketing as well as storage of stifled cocoons for reeling.

Controlled by using ant well during silkworm rearing and by the application of insecticides during outside cocoon spinning.



Lizard:

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata



These lizards are most dangerous predators of during early instars.

Model rearing house with wire mesh to all windows and doors are recommended to control the lizards.

Squirrel

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Rodentia



These are major predator of silkworm during cocoon spinning, preservation of cocoons before marketing as well as stored stifled cocoons.

Squirrels eat away the pupae and causes extensive damage to the cocoon crop.

Model rearing house and strict vigilance during cocoon spinning is recommended to control the squirrels

Crow

Phylum: Chordata These crows are major predator of silkworm during spinning, when the mountages are kept outside the rearing room. Crows eat away the larvae and causes extensive damage to the cocoon crop, if rearer do not take care during outside spinning *i.e.*, strict vigilance.

Class: Aves



Rat



Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Rodentia

These are also major predator of silkworm during silkworm rearing, cocoon spinning, preservation of cocoons before marketing as well as stored stifled cocoons.

Rat proof model rearing room is recommended to control the rats.



Acknowledgements
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