



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

ISSN: 2454-132X

Impact factor: 6.078

(Volume 6, Issue 4)

Available online at: www.ijariit.com

A study on life cycle of six spotted zig-zag ladybird

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ABSTRACT

Six spotted zig zag lady bird is a type of ladybird belonging to genus Cheilomenes. Even though the beetle is known to everyone their life cycle is not commonly known to us. The aim of this research project was to identify the different life stages of the six spotted zig zag ladybirds

Keywords— Zoology, Ecology, Entomology Ecosystem

About six spotted zig zag ladybirds

Six spotted zig zag ladybirds (*Cheilomenes sexmaculata*) is a species of ladybird. It was described by Johan Christian Faricius in 1781. It is well known as a predator of aphids and other small insects. There are several types of this species, some of them can be confused with *Microspus discolor* and *Chilocorcus Nigrita*. The species has a wide distribution range within Asia and subtropical zones from India to Japan and parts of Australia

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

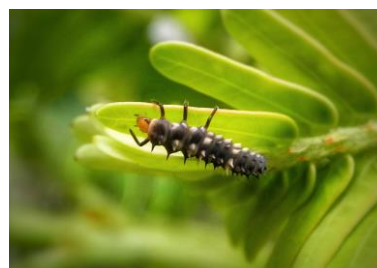
This project was done on April 2020. According to my observations there are seasons in which this six spotted zig zag ladybird can be seen, Basically during summer season many can be found. So I had opted to observe the six spotted zig zag ladybird in April. For my observations I had found a gooseberry tree in which there were many six spotted zig zag ladybirds were found. There were habitated in branches. I realised that an ecosystem had been formed there.

As I was continuing the observation I had spotted a different shape insect among them. There were similarity between this and six spotted zig zag ladybird. While I was observing further, I had confirmed that this was the larva of the six spotted zig zag ladybird. I had also found the pupa stage of the six spotted zig zag ladybirds. But I was unable to spot egg of it.

My observations

Different stages of development of six spotted zig zag ladybird

Larval stage



It will just look like a caterpillar. The body bod can be divisible into head and tail region. The head region will be yellow in color. At the initial stage the larva will be in black color. As it get older the tail region will become getting color with white spots on it. There will be spine like projections on the tail region. They will have 6 legs (3 on each side)

Pupa stage



Pupa can be seen attached to the leaf. At the initial stage the pupa will be the same color as that of larva. But as it becomes mature, The lupa will get a cream color with spiny like projections on it. It will take 1-2 weak to be mature and finally the adult six spotted zig zag ladybird will come out.

Adult stage

Basically 2 varieties of six spotted zig zag ladybird was been observed. The six spotted zig zag lady bird with yellowish orange color were common among them. The other type was having a reddish orange shade.



Yellowish orange variety



Reddish orange variety

There will be 2 zig zag line on the either side of it. The head region will be in a cream color. There will be two spots in the back side of it.



These were the observation made during this research.

REFERENCE

inaturalist.org/people/ajil_benny