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## **BIOLOGY AND MORPHOMETRICS OF SAPOTA MIDRIB FOLDER, *BANISIA MYRSUSALIS ELEARALIS* WALKER (LEPIDOPTERA: THYRIDIDAE) ON SAPOTA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Banisia myrsusalis elearalis* Walker (Thyrididae: Lepidoptera) commonly known as sapota midrib folder, is a common pest of sapota. Studies on its biology were conducted from April 2008 to March 2010 at Fruit Research Station, Navsari Agricultural University, Gandevi, Gujarat. The results indicated that on an average, pre-mating and mating periods were  $1.31 \pm 0.46$  and  $1.00 \pm 0.31$  days, respectively. The pre-oviposition, oviposition and post-oviposition period averaged  $2.53 \pm 0.49$ ,  $1.90 \pm 0.70$  and  $2.95 \pm 0.98$  days, respectively. The female laid on an average  $55.0 \pm 20.10$  eggs in her life span. The eggs were laid singly on tender leaves. The eggs hatched within  $4.39 \pm 0.57$  days and the viability of eggs averaged  $95.20 \pm 4.99$  per cent. The larval stage was completed in  $15.71 \pm 1.01$  days. Pre-pupal and pupal stages lasted for  $1.61 \pm 0.54$  and  $9.13 \pm 1.36$  days. The total life cycle of male and female were  $34.78 \pm 4.63$  and  $37.83 \pm 5.44$  days, respectively.

**KEY WORDS:** *Banisia myrsusalis elearalis*, Bionomics, sapota midrib folder