



Feeding Potential of *Axinoscymnus puttardriahi* Kapur and Munshi on Invasive Whitefly, *Aleurothrixus trachoides* (Back) Infesting *Capsicum annum* L.

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Abstract: Investigation has been carried out to evaluate the feeding potential of *Axinoscymnus puttardriahi* Kapur and Munshi, a less explored predatory coccinellid on an invasive whitefly species, *Aleurothrixus trachoides* (Back) infesting chilli plants. Larval stage of the beetle consumed 1458.33 whitefly eggs which is around 12.85 per cent of the total feeding potential (11351 eggs) of the beetle during its life cycle, while the adult stage of *A. puttardriahi* was more potent in regulating whitefly population with 87.15 per cent (9892.67) consumption of whitefly eggs. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th larval instars and adult of *A. puttardriahi* showed average per day intake of 21.82, 61.12, 184.69, 377.04 and 261.22 whitefly eggs, respectively. Findings of this study emphasize the importance of conserving *A. puttardriahi* in the natural ecosystem and exploiting them in ecologically based integrated pest management programmes of whitefly pests.

Keywords: *Axinoscymnus puttardriahi*, *Aleurothrixus trachoides*, Chilli, Feeding potential, Developmental duration
