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Effects of thermo-photoperiod on induction and termination of hibernation in *Chilo partellus* (Swinhoe)

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Abstract

Determination of critical threshold for induction and termination of diapause (hibernation) are important for better understanding the bio-ecology and population dynamics of Chilo partellus (Swinhoe) under varying climatic conditions. We studied initiation and termination of hibernation under five temperature and photoperiod regimes viz., 27°C + 12L:12D, 22°C + 11.5L:12.5D, 18°C + 11L:13D, 14°C + 10.5L:13.5D and $10^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ under fixed and ramping treatments, and the observations were recorded on various phenological and developmental characteristics at weekly intervals. Present studies revealed that the induction of hibernation in C. partellus larvae takes from 46 to 56 days depending upon temperature and photoperiod conditions. Induction of hibernation varied from 7.9 to 18.3% across treatment conditions, indicating that not all C. partellus larvae undergo diapause under prevailing environmental conditions. Weight, length and head capsule width of diapausing larvae were found significantly lower than the non-diapausing larvae. The non-diapausing C. partellus larvae required a thermal threshold of 1068 degree-days under ambient conditions, while in case of hibernating larvae it varied significantly across treatment conditions. Diapausing larvae underwent up to five supernumerary moults, wherein highest percentage of diapausing larvae (35.7%) exhibited two supernumerary moults. The developmental time of diapausing larvae varied from 94.9 to 160.4 days across treatments. A population loss of 17.2-28.3% was recorded in C. partellus due to hibernation, which has implications for population buildup of post-hibernation first brood and management strategies.

Keywords: Abiotic factors, *Chilo partellus*, degree-days, diapause induction, diapause termination, hibernation

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Introduction

Diapause in insects has evolved as an important life history component at a particular stage, which plays a key role in controlling ecology, phenology, and physiology (Andrewartha, 1952; Xiao *et al.*, 2010). Diapause is genetically programmed physiological state of arrested metabolic activity that enables an insect to survive under predictable adverse climatic

*Author for correspondence Phone/Fax: +91-11-25842482 Email: mukeshdhillon@rediffmail.com conditions and diminishing resources needed for development, reproduction and mutagenesis (Neal *et al.*, 1997; Youcum *et al.*, 2011; Lehmann *et al.*, 2015), and synchronizes activity cycles with favorable conditions thus ensuring effective resource utilization (Tauber *et al.*, 1986; Arbab, 2014). During diapause, the insect passes through several processes such as induction, maintenance, termination and postdiapause development (Xiao *et al.*, 2010; Hodek, 2012), and undergoes several changes such as suppression of developmental and reproductive functions, accumulation of metabolic reserves, and reduced metabolic activity (Beck, 1980; Qiang *et al.*, 2012). Diapause is not always an adaptive advantage as it can also pose a threat to insects, for example, if an insect enter diapause early in the season or delay in emergence from diapause lead to copulation disruption and laying of unfertilized eggs, whereas delayed entrance or early termination of diapause might expose insects to harsh climatic conditions, which ultimately kill them (Irwin & Lee, 2000; Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Arbab, 2014). Furthermore, exposure of hibernating or overwintering individuals to further low temperature contribute to depletion of energy reserves, which directly affect survival, post-diapause development, reproduction, fecundity, and adult longevity (Ellers & van Alphen, 2002; Xiao *et al.*, 2010).

Spotted stem borer, Chilo partellus (Swinhoe) is one of the most serious constraints in increasing yield potential of maize and sorghum, causing yield loss of about 18-25% under different agro-climatic conditions in Asia and Africa (Khadioli et al., 2014; Dhaliwal et al., 2015). Chilo partellus undergoes facultative diapause as mature larvae inside the old stems or stubbles, and is an important component of its biology, population dynamics and geographic distribution (Ofomata et al., 1999; Kfir et al., 2002). During diapause, larvae of C. partellus moult several times designated as supernumerary moults (Scheltes, 1978). Occurrence of supernumerary moults and consumption of food during diapause have also been reported in several other stem borer species such as Diatraea saccharalis (Fab.) (Roe et al., 1984), Chilo suppressalis Walker (Koidsumi & Makino, 1958; Xiao et al., 2010; Qiang et al., 2012), and Sesamia nonagrioides (Lefebvre) (Gadenne et al., 1997). Diapause duration i.e., from its induction to termination has also been extensively studied in Busseola fusca (Fuller) (Kfir, 1993). The genetic determination of locally adapted life-history traits such as diapause and polyphenism in insects are important to understand their bio-ecology and population dynamics in response to climate change and the host plants on which it feeds (Sotherlind & Nylin, 2011).

Initiation and termination of diapause is genetically predefined phenomenon, triggered by a number of stimuli such as temperature, photoperiod, humidity and food availability (Hodek, 2012; Fischer et al., 2014), and controlled by neuro-hormones (Nijhout, 1975). Chilo partellus undergoes hibernation (winter diapause) under North Indian conditions. The information on critical threshold conditions for induction and termination of winter diapause, phenology of diapausing larvae, supernumerary moults, insect population loss due to diapause, etc. are some of the important points, which needs greater attention for better understanding the bio-ecology and population dynamics of insect pests for sustainable crop protection. Therefore, present studies were undertaken to examine: (i) effects of fluctuating and constant temperature coupled photoperiod treatments on the induction and duration of winter diapause, and phenology of diapausing and non-diapausing individuals; (ii) degree-day accumulations for the development of diapausing and nondiapausing individuals; (iii) occurrence of supernumerary moults during the course of hibernation, and (iv) population loss due to winter diapause in C. partellus. Such information will be highly useful for designing novel management strategies.

Materials and methods

Insect rearing and experimental conditions

Spotted stem borer, *C. partellus* larvae were collected from experimental field of Division of Entomology, ICAR-Indian

Agricultural Research Institute (Latitude - 28°38'23" N and Longitude - 77°09'27"E, height above mean sea level is 228.61 m), New Delhi, India and reared on artificial diet (Sharma et al., 1992) at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C, $70 \pm 5^{\circ}$ relative humidity, and 12 h photoperiod under laboratory conditions. Adults emerged from the culture were released in ovipostion cages. The oviposition cages were covered with wax-paper from outside to serve as oviposition substrate. The wax-papers were changed daily, and the papers with eggs were kept at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C for hatching and use in different experiments. Relative humidity was $70 \pm 5\%$ during all the experiments. To determine the critical climatic conditions that enable *C. partellus* larvae to enter diapause, five temperature regimes i.e., $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C, $22 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C, $18 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C with respective photoperiod combinations 12:12, 11.5:12.5, 11:13, 10.5:13.5 and 10:14 (L:D), were calibrated in separate incubators (Calton, Narang Instruments Pvt. Ltd., India). These temperature and photoperiod combinations were framed in order to provide an environment, which mimics the natural conditions and induce hibernation in the test insect.

Diapause determination

Three basic criteria viz., behavioral, morphological and physiological were taken into account to determine larval diapause, and differentiate diapausing and non-diapausing larvae. Under the behaviural criteria it was noted that diapausing larvae fail to pupate (Scheltes, 1978), construct a resting site (diapause chamber), and exceeded the normal development time. The morphological characteristics viz., absence of cuticular pigmentation (Scheltes, 1978), absence of asetose tubercles (Mathez, 1972), turning of larval body from creamy to milky white, and turning of prothorasic shield from light brown to creamy in colour were determined for the diagnostics of larval diapause. Third criteria i.e., physiological changes that enable diapause larvae to moult extra (supernumerary moult) exceeding their genetically fixed ecdysis (normally six instars) (Kfir, 1991) was also taken into consideration to ensure larval diapause.

Development, survival and induction of diapause in C. partellus at different temperature and photoperiod ramping regimes

This experiment was set up with 50 neonate C. partellus larvae released on artificial diet in plastic jars (1000 ml capacity) per replication and there were three replications in a completely randomized design. Since, the neonate larvae of *C. partellus* exhibit strong phototectic behavior, the experimental jars were wrapped with a black paper immediately after larval inoculation, leaving only the diet portion uncovered to allow the larvae to properly settle into diet in the culture room at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C and 12L: 12D photoperiod. Three days after inoculation, the black paper sheets were removed and the larvae shifted to calibrated experimental conditions, i.e., 27 ± 1°C and 12L: 12D photoperiod in the incubator. One week after inoculation, five randomly selected individual larvae per replication were removed from the experimental jars for observations on larval weight, head capsule width and larval length, and averaged thus making three replications. After observations the larvae were placed back to respective jars. Observations on larval weight were recorded using Pricision electronic balance (CB-Series, Contech); and the head capsule width and larval length were recorded using Leica StereoZoom microscope

(Leica Microsystems Ltd, Heerbrugg, Switzerland). After completion of observations, the experimental jars were shifted to $22 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C and 11.5L: 12.5D in the incubator. After 1 week of exposure to each temperature and photoperiod conditions, similar morphometric observations as mentioned above were also recorded under each experimental condition, and the experimental jars were shifted to further lower temperature and photoperiod regimes, i.e., $18 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11L:13D$, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C + 10.5L:13.5D, and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ at weekly intervals. Weekly exposure of the test insects to $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$, $22 \pm$ 1°C + 11.5L:12.5D, 18 ± 1°C + 11L:13D, 14 ± 1°C + 10.5L:13.5D, and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ conditions was designated as ramping 1. After completion of ramping 1, the test insects were exposed back from lower to higher temperature and photoperiod regimes at weekly intervals and designated as ramping 2. The rampings 3 and 4 followed the same trend as rampings 1 and 2, respectively. Similar observations on larval weight, head capsule width, and larval length were continued during rampings 3 and 4 till all the test individuals completed larval development. During the exposure of test C. partellus larvae to different temperature and photoperiod regimes during each ramping, the diapausing larvae (~45 days after diapause) were separated and reared on fresh diet at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C, 12L:12D and $70 \pm 5\%$ RH, and the observations were recorded and expressed as percent larval survival, larval duration (days), and population loss due to diapause.

Development, survival and induction of diapause in C. partellus at constant temperature and photoperiod regimes

The experiment on induction of diapause in C. partellus at constant temperature and photoperiod regimes was designed at five temperature and photoperiod regimes, i.e., $27 \pm$ $1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$, $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$, $18 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11L:13D$, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10.5L:13.5D$, and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ in separate incubators. Fifty neonate C. partellus larvae were released on artificial diet in plastic jars (1000 ml capacity) per replication and there were three replications for each set of temperature and photoperiod regimes in a completely randomized design. Similar to previous experiment, the experimental jars inoculated with neonate C. partellus larvae were kept wrapped with a black paper sheet for 3 days to disrupt phototectic behavior and settle on the artificial diet. Keeping in view the slow rate of larval development at lower temperature regimes and length of larval duration at optimum temperature, the observations were started after 3 weeks of exposure to each treatment condition, and repeated at 5 day intervals till pupation. The observations were recorded on larval morphometrics, larval and pupal developmental durations, larval survival and adult emergence. The observations on larval morphometrics, i.e., larval weight, head capsule width, and body length were recorded on randomly selected five larvae per replication. The larvae were placed back in the respective jars after observations. The C. partellus larvae displaying diapause symptoms under each of the experimental conditions were removed from their respective treatment regimes, and reared separately under similar treatment conditions. After 45 days of entering diapause the larvae were provided with fresh artificial diet. The diapausing C. partellus larvae from each treatment regime were collected and counted separately, and observations were recorded and expressed as percent larval survival, larval duration (days), and percent population loss due to diapause.

Determination of supernumerary moults

There is little knowledge available on number of additional ecdysis or supernumerary moults the diapausing *C. partellus* larvae undergoes, and therefore, we performed an additional experiment to determine the actual number of supernumerary moults that occur during diapause in this insect. A total of 30 diapausing *C. partellus* larvae of same age were collected singly in the 6-well tissue culture plates with a piece of artificial diet, and placed at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L$:12D in the incubator. Daily observations were made on larval–larval ecdysis in each of the test insect and continued till pupation. The diet when became hard and dry was replaced with fresh diet. The dead larvae observed during the experiments were removed and excluded from data analysis. The data were expressed as distribution of percentage of diapausing larvae entered pupation according to number of supernumerary moults.

Statistical analysis

The percentage data were subjected to Arcsine transformation, and the analysis of variance (ANOVA) were carried out using statistical software SAS® version 9.2. Before analysis all the data sets were checked for normality using Kolmogorov-Smornov (K-S) test. The data on larval morphometric parameters (weight, length, and head capsule width), developmental durations and thermal requirements (degree-days) in diapausing and non-diapausing larvae across temperature and photoperiod rampings were subjected to repeated measurements one-way ANOVA, considering weekly intervals data in particular ramping as a factor, and the significance of differences were judged by χ^2 test. Since, there were no symptoms of diapause induction in C. partellus during temperature and photoperiod rampings 1 and 2, and larval development was stopped after certain period of exposure at constant temperature and photoperiod treatments viz., $18 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11L:13D$, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10.5L:13.5D$ and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$, thus the data from these treatments were not included in further analysis. The differences between physiological states (diapausing and non-diapausing) across temperature and photoperiod rampings (rampings 3 and 4) for larval morphometric parameters (weight, length, and head capsule width), larval durand thermal pupal duration, requirements ation. (degree-days) were compared using repeated measurements two-way ANOVA, and the significance of differences were judged by χ^2 test. The data on different biological parameters (larval duration, larval survival, pupal period, pupal mortality, and adult emergence), and diapause initiation and termination parameters (diapause induction, diapaused larval survival, and C. partellus population loss due to diapause) under constant temperature and photoperiod regimes were analyzed using one-way ANOVA, while larval morphometric parameters (weight, length, and head capsule width), developmental durations and thermal requirements (degree-days) of diapausing and non-diapausing larvae and their interactions with constant temperature and photoperiod regimes were analyzed using two-factor factorial analysis, and the significance of differences were checked by F-test and treatment means were compared using least significant differences (LSD) at $P \le 0.05$.

Percent population loss due to diapause was calculated using the formula: Percent population loss due to diapause = (number of larvae died during diapause/total number of larvae entered diapause) \times 100.

	No	on-diapausing larv	ae		Diapausing larvae		
Temperature and photoperiod rampings	Larval weight	Larval length	Head capsule	Larval weight	Larval length	Head capsule	
	(mg larva ⁻¹)	(mm)	width (mm)	(mg larva ⁻¹)	(mm)	width (mm)	
Ramping 1	$3.2 \pm 0.03d$	$3.8 \pm 0.06d$	$0.5 \pm 0.00d$	ND	ND	ND	
Ramping 2	$36.6 \pm 0.50c$	$9.1 \pm 0.19c$	$0.9 \pm 0.01c$	ND	ND	ND	
Ramping 3	$55.8 \pm 1.60b$	$9.6 \pm 0.09b$	$1.0 \pm 0.01b$	$53.5 \pm 0.76a$	$9.1 \pm 0.38a$	$1.0 \pm 0.00a$	
Ramping 4	114.8 ± 1.20a	11.2 ± 0.18a	$1.2 \pm 0.01a$	$56.2 \pm 0.88a$	$8.9 \pm 0.2a$	$1.0 \pm 0.00a$	

Table 1. Effect of different temperature and photoperiod rampings on the morphometric parameters of non-diapausing and diapausing *Chilo partellus* larvae.

Values within column followed by different letters are significant at P = 0.05. ND = no diapause recorded during rampings 1 and 2. NS = nonsignificant at P = 0.05. N = 15 in every ramping for each type of larvae.

Table 2. Larval and pupal durations and numbers of degree-days required for the development of non-diapausing and diapausing populations of *Chilo partellus* across different temperature and photoperiod rampings.

Physiological state	Larval duration (days)	Pupal duration (days)	Thermal requirement for larval development (degree-days)
Non-diapause	$\begin{array}{c} 108.0 \pm 0.08b \\ 160.4 \pm 0.79a \end{array}$	$12.7 \pm 0.84a$	$1731.1 \pm 7.9b$
Diapause		$15.9 \pm 0.46a$	$3139.3 \pm 16.6a$

Values within column followed by different letters are significant at P = 0.05. NS = nonsignificant at P = 0.05.

The degree-days were calculated using a modified formula given by Dhillon & Sharma (2007): total degree-days = number of exposure days to particular temperature × respective temperature till completion of postembryonic development (e.g., total degree-days = $d_1 \times t_1 + d_2 \times t_2 + d_3 \times t_3 + ---- + d_n \times t_n$; where d = days of exposure; t = particular temperature).

Results

Effect of different temperature and photoperiod ramping regimes on morphometric and developmental parameters of diapausing and non-diapausing larvae of C. partellus

The larval weight, body length, and head capsule width of non-diapausing C. partellus larvae across different temperature and photoperiod ramping regimes varied from 3.2 to 114.8 mg larva⁻¹, 3.8–11.2 mm, and 0.5–1.2 mm, respectively (table 1). There was significant influence of temperature and photoperiod ramping regimes on the weight ($\chi^2 < 0.001$), body length ($\chi^2 < 0.001$), and head capsule width ($\chi^2 < 0.001$) of non-diapausing C. partellus larvae. The larval weight, body length, and head capsule width of non-diapausing C. partellus larvae were significantly higher at ramping 4 as compared with other ramping regimes (table 1). There were no symptoms of diapause induction in C. partellus exposed to different temperature and photoperiod regimes during rampings 1 and 2, while at rampings 3 and 4 the C. partellus larvae started entering diapause. The differences for larval weight ($\chi^2 = 0.14$), body length ($\chi^2 = 0.61$), and head capsule width ($\chi^2 = 0.39$) of diapausing *C. partellus* larvae during ramping 3 and 4 were statistically nonsignificant (table 1). However, the differences for these traits between diapausing and non-diapausing *C. partellus* larvae, during rampings 3 and 4, and their interactions were significant ($\chi^2 < 0.001$).

The diapause larvae of *C. partellus* took significantly longer time to turn into pupa as compared with non-diapausing counterpart ($\chi^2 < 0.001$) during different temperature and photoperiod rampings (table 2). Duration of pupal eclosion during different temperature and photoperiod rampings in diapause population was comparatively longer than the non-diapausing population, however, the differences were nonsignificant ($\chi^2 = 0.102$). Thermal requirements for overall development of *C. partellus* larvae across different temperature and photoperiod rampings was significantly more for diapusing ($\chi^2 < 0.001$) than the non-diapausing larvae (table 2).

Effect of different constant temperature and photoperiod regimes on morphometric and developmental parameters of diapausing and non-diapausing larvae of C. partellus

The neonate C. partellus larvae exposed to constant temperatures and photoperiods viz., $18 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11L:13D$, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C + 10.5L:13.5D, and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ survived upto 105.0, 104.5, and 91.0 days, respectively and failed to pupate, however at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ the insect successfully completed the development. Furthermore, the larval duration of C. partellus exposed to $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ was significantly shorter (F = 1683.46; df = 4,8; $P \le 0.001$) than those exposed to $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ (table 3). However, the larval survival at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ was on par with each other (F = 1.58; df = 1,2; P = 0.330). The pupal period was significantly shorter (F = 57.7; df = 1,2; P = 0.017) and pupal mortality lower (F = 49.0; df = 1,2; P = 0.020) at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L$:12D than at $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$. The adult emergence was significantly higher at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ (*F* = 16.74; df = 1,2; P = 0.040) than at $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ (table 3).

A comparison between diapausing and non-diapausing *C*. *partellus* larvae at constant temperature and photoperiod treatments viz., $27 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C + 12L:12D and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C + 11.5L:12.5D for various morphometric parameters such as larval weight, larval length, and larval head capsule width, was made using two-way ANOVA. The two-way ANOVA suggested significant differences for weight (*F* = 1183.24, df = 1,2, *P* ≤ 0.001), length (*F* = 17.73, df = 1,2, *P* = 0.006), and head capsule width (*F* = 6.25, df = 1,2, *P* = 0.046) of diapausing and non-diapausing larvae across thermo-photoperiod treatments. The diapausing *C*. *partellus* larvae had significantly lower larval weight, shorten length, and head capsule width than the non-diapausing larvae at both $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$, respectively (table 4).

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Table 3. Development and survival of Child	partellus at different constant	t temperature and photoperiod regimes	•
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Temperature (°C) and	Larval duration	Larval	Pupal period	Pupal	Adult
photoperiod (L:D) treatments	(days)	survival (%)	(days)	mortality (%)	emergence (%)
27 (12:12) 22 (11.5:12.5) 18 (11:13) 14 (10.5:13.5) 10 (10:14) LSD (P = 0.05)	$39.5 \pm 0.87b$ $66.5 \pm 0.66a$ 105.0 104.5 91.0 2.22	67.3 ± 1.33a 62.7 ± 2.40a NDR NDR NDR NS	9.8 ± 0.16b 11.9 ± 0.18a NDR NDR NDR 1.63	20.0 ± 0.57b 29.4 ± 0.88a NDR NDR 2.22	47.3 ± 0.88a 33.3 ± 1.85b NDR NDR NDR 8.88

Values within column followed by different letters are significant at P = 0.05. NDR = no development recorded after particular duration, and data were not included in further analysis. NS = nonsignificant at P = 0.05

Table 4. Effects of constant temperature and photoperiod on the morphometric parameters of non-diapausing and diapausing *Chilo partellus* larvae.

Temperature (°C) and photoperiod (L:D) treatments	Weight (mg)		Length (mm)		Head capsule width (mg)	
	Non-diapause	Diapause	Non-diapause	Diapause	Non-diapause	Diapause
27 (12:12)	134.55 ± 3.14Aa	88.33 ± 0.5Ab	16.15 ± 0.14Aa	14.05 ± 0.15 Ab	1.53 ± 0.00 Aa	1.41 ± 0.00 Ab
22 (11.5:12.5)	86.26 ± 0.89Ba	83.58 ± 0.1 Bb	15.93 ± 0.19Ba	13.22 ± 0.09 Bb	1.49 ± 0.02 Ba	1.32 ± 0.01 Bb
For comparing	LSD ($P = 0.05$)		LSD ($P = 0.05$)		LSD (P	= 0.05)
Treatments	1.54		0.179		0.021	
State	1.54		0.179		0.021	
Treatment × state	2.19		0.253		0.029	

Values within column and rows for each parameter followed by different capital and small letters, respectively are significant at P = 0.05.

Similarly, the developmental parameters i.e., larval duration, pupal duration, and thermal requirements (degreedays) were also compared between diapausing and nondiapausing C. partellus larvae at constant temperature and photoperiod treatments viz., $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm$ 1°C+11.5L:12.5D. Present studies revealed that the nondiapausing C. partellus larvae under ambient conditions (27 ± 1°C + 12L:12D) require a thermal threshold of 1068 degreedays. The two-way ANOVA showed significant differences for larval duration (F = 9.41, df = 1,2, P = 0.022), pupal duration (F = 8.19, df = 1,2, P = 0.029), and thermal requirement (degree-days: F = 12.03, df = 1,2, P = 0.013) of diapausing and non-diapausing larvae across thermo-photoperiod treatments. The diapausing C. partellus larvae had significantly longer larval and pupal durations, and higher thermal requirements than the non-diapausing larvae at both $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$, respectively (table 5).

Initiation and termination of diapause

There was significant variability in induction of diapause (F = 11.87, df = 2,4, P = 0.021), survival of diapaused larvae (F = 28.07, df = 2,4, P = 0.004), and *C. partellus* population loss due to diapause (F = 28.10, df = 2,4, P = 0.004) across different temperature and photoperiod treatments (table 6). The observations on diapause during different temperature and photoperiod rampings revealed that the numbers of diapaused larvae recovered were significantly higher during ramping 4 (12.9%) than ramping 3 (5.5%) (F = 38.57, df = 1,2, P = 0.02). However, there were no significant differences between ramping 3 and 4 for survival of diapaused larvae (F = 0.91; df = 1,2; P = 0.64) and *C. partellus* population loss due to diapause (F = 0.92, df = 1,2, P = 0.43). No significant differences were observed in induction of diapause under $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$

(14.99%) and those exposed to different temperature and photoperiod ramping (18.3%) conditions, being significantly lower at $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L$:12D (table 6). The population loss due to diapause under constant $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L$:12.5D (28.3%) and different temperature and photoperiod rampings (17.2%) were on par, while no mortality was observed in diapausing larvae under $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L$:12D treatment conditions (table 6).

Supernumerary moults during diapause

During the course of diapause, each diapaused larvae exhibited several larval–larval ecdysis last being the larval-pupal ecdysis. We observed up to five supernumerary moults in the diapaused *C. partellus* larvae before final ecdysis to pupation. Highest diapausing larvae (35.7%) exhibited two supernumerary moults followed by 25.0% twice, 21.4% once, 14.2% four times, and 3.5% larvae moulted five times before final ecdysis to pupation (fig. 1).

Discussion

Intensity of diapause is genetic and physiological attributes are governed by the duration of diapause under given environmental conditions (Masaki, 2002; Jiang *et al.*, 2010). Tropical and sub-tropical insects undergo facultative diapause induced by environmental cues such as photoperiod, temperature, humidity etc., and require certain period for development (Wu, 2002; Sinclair *et al.*, 2003). Such environmental cues have also been reported to induce diapause in *B. fusca* (Usua, 1973; Dejen *et al.*, 2014), *Chilo* spp. (Scheltes, 1978), *Diatraea grandiosella* Dyar (Kikukawa & Chippendale, 1983), and *Scirpophaga incertulas* (Walker) (Gu & Yin, 1984). Present studies showed that the induction of diapause in *C. partellus* larvae takes from 46 to 56 days depending upon the temperature and photoperiod

Temperature (°C) and	Larval duration (days)		Pupal duration (days)		Thermal requirement (Degree-days)	
photoperiod (L:D) treatments	Non-diapause	Diapause	Non-diapause	Diapause	Non-diapause	Diapause
27 (12:12)	39.6 ± 0.87Aa	94.9 ± 2.32Ab	9.9 ± 0.16Aa	$13.7 \pm 0.80 \text{Ab}$	1067.9 ± 23.1Aa	2561.7 ± 13.28Ab
22 (11.5:12.5)	66.5 ± 0.66 Ba	$127.4 \pm 3.42Bb$	11.8 ± 0.18 Ba	18.0 ± 0.88 Bb	1462.2 ± 14.72Ba	2804.9 ± 31.15Bb
For comparing	LSD $(P = 0.05)$		LSD ($P = 0.05$)		LSD ($P = 0.05$)	
Treatments	2.304		0.96		53.29	
Larval state	2.304		0.96		53.29	
Treatment × Larval state	3.258		1.36		73.36	

Table 5. Duration of developmental stages and degree-day requirement for the survival of non-diapausing and diapausing *Chilo partellus* larvae at constant treatments.

Values within column and rows for each parameter followed by different capital and small letters, respectively are significant at P = 0.05.

Table 6. Initiation and termination of diapause in *Chilo partellus* at various temperature and photoperiod treatment regimes.

Treatments	Diapause induction (%)	Population loss due to diapause (%)
27 ± 1°C + 12L:12D	$7.9 \pm 0.92b$	$0.0 \pm 0.00b$
$22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$	$15.0 \pm 1.50a$	$28.3 \pm 6.00a$
Temperature and photoperiod rampings	$18.3 \pm 0.83a$	$17.2 \pm 4.70a$
LSD $(\dot{P} = 0.05)$	5.31	12.34

Values within columns for each parameter followed by different letters are significant at P = 0.05.

treatments. Induction of hibernation in C. partellus varied from 15.0 to 18.3% across temperature and photoperiod regimes, indicating that not all larvae undergo diapause, which could be due to genetic segregation. Induction of hibernation in some C. partellus larvae under ambient temperature and photoperiod conditions $(27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D)$ during present studies could be due to synchrony between larval stage and physical and/ or nutritional condition of the diet (as the larvae were reared on the same diet till pupation). These observations suggest substantial contribution of food along with other abiotic factors in induction of diapause in C. partellus. Further, the C. partellus larvae exposed to constant temperature and photoperiod treatments *viz.*, $18 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11L:13D$, $14 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10.5L:13.5D$ and $10 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 10L:14D$ did not allow the larvae to reach maturity leading to 100% mortality without any symptoms of hibernation, indicating that the induction of diapause is triggered towards maturity of the larvae. Dry condition of the host plants and deterioration of nutritional quality, i.e., increase in carbohydrate content and decrease in protein and water content in host plant have also been reported earlier to induce diapause in several cereal stem borer species even under favorable climatic conditions (Scheltes, 1978; Sinclair et al., 2003; Tamiru et al., 2012). Chilo partellus larvae exposed to constant $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L$:12D presumed lower larval duration, higher larval survival, shorter pupal period, lower pupal mortality, and higher adult emergence as compared with those exposed to $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$, reiterates that $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C$ temperature and 12L:12D photoperiod conditions are ambient for mass rearing of C. partellus under laboratory conditions.

During diapause *C. partellus* larvae exhibit several morphological changes, which aid in determining induction of diapause. We found that the morphological characteristics based criteria is more pronounced, reliable, and technically

sound as compared with behavioral and physiological criteria for diapause determination. The morphological changes in C. partellus larvae could be due to physiological changes in response to unfavorable abiotic factors and food quality. Earlier studies have also reported that the diet deficient in protein content affect growth and development, and influence cuticular pigmentation leading to transformation of spotted morph to unspotted diapausing morph in D. grandiosella (Chippendale & Reddy, 1973). Abiotic factors like cooling and freezing, and rates of temperature change influence physiological responses of insects (Sinclair et al., 2003; Tamiru et al., 2012), leading to effects on morphological traits such as larval weight, length and head capsule width. Present studies revealed that the larval weight, body length, and head capsule width of both diapausing and non-diapausing C. partellus larvae were significantly higher during temperature and photoperiod ramping 4 than other lower ramping regimes, which could be due to increased consumption and assimilation of food and prolonged larval duration. Further, the diapausing C. partellus larvae had significantly lower larval weight, larval length and head capsule width, and longer larval and pupal durations than the non-diapausing larvae at 27 $\pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ treatment conditions. The reduction in body weight and length of diapausing C. partellus larvae could be because of reduced feeding, energy loss due to construction of diapause chamber, and reduction in body water content. Similar causal factors have also been reported earlier for reduction in weight and size of other diapausing insect species (Scheltes, 1978; Kostal et al., 1998; Singtripop et al., 1999). Furthermore, Koidsumi & Makino (1958) elaborated that the termination of hibernation in C. suppressalis is greatly accelerated by increase of water content in the body, resulting in the speeding up of certain enzymatic activities related to metamorphosis, and this increased water content is not expressed as increase in body weight but to serve for the production of metabolic water.

Insects adjust their life cycles to the seasonally variable environmental conditions in such a way that their growth, development, and reproduction coincide with favorable conditions (Wipking, 2000; Dhillon & Sharma, 2007; Khadioli *et al.*, 2014), and diapause is one such important component, which help insects to overcome and adjust variable climatic conditions. Induction and termination of diapause is regulated by temperature, which can simply be explained in terms of degree-days. The *C. partellus* larvae undergoing hibernation process under $27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 12L:12D$ and $22 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D$ constant temperature and photoperiod treatment conditions required 2561.7 and 2804.9 degree-days, respectively for completion of larval development, suggesting that the thermal



Fig. 1. Frequency distribution of number of supernumerary moults by diapausing Chilo partellus larvae.

requirement for diapausing *C. partellus* larvae (right from initiation to termination) decrease with increase in temperature. However, under fluctuating treatment (ramping) conditions the diapausing larvae required 3139.3 degree-days for completion of development, indicating influence of below optimum fluctuation in temperature and photoperiod conditions on the physiological response thus disrupting growth and development, and hence accumulating more numbers of degreedays (Wilson & Barnett, 1983; Khadioli *et al.*, 2014).

The number of larval ecdysis in normal growing larvae of C. partellus is genetically fixed to six (Nijhout, 1975). However, inter- and intra-specific variation in number of supernumerary moults in the diapausing insects cannot be ignored. This interand intra-specific variation in supernumerary moults could be because of food (Pipa, 1976), environmental conditions (Kadono-Okuda et al., 1986), or juvenile hormone activity (Yin & Chippendale, 1973; Tanaka & Takeda, 1993). During present studies we observed up to five supernumerary moults in the hibernating C. partellus larvae, wherein highest percentage of larvae (35.7%) exhibited two supernumerary moults followed by 25.0% twice, 21.4% once, 14.2% four times, and 3.5% larvae moulted five times before final ecdysis to pupation. This variation in supernumerary ecdysis in C. partellus could be due to variation in active forms of juvenile hormone titers during the entire course of diapause. Furthermore, the diapausing C. partellus larvae undergoing supernumerary or stationary moults exhibited reduction in larval weight and size, indicating that the supernumerary moults does not seem to provide any adaptive advantage to insects. Earlier studies reported seven supernumerary moults in diapausing C. partellus larvae (Kfir, 1991) and two additional moults in D. grandiosella larvae (Chippendale & Yin, 1973; Yin & Chippendale, 1976) with stationary larval growth.

Feeding activities in the beginning and end of hibernation period are considered to serve for the nutritive preparations for entering into and termination of hibernation in *C. suppressalis*, and the environmental conditions determine the feeding activity, diapause duration, and successful diapause termination (Koidsumi & Makino, 1958; Fischer *et al.*, 2014). During present studies, the termination of diapause in *C. partellus* larvae occurred between 8 and 12 days on exposure to ambient conditions, and completed their development right from induction of diapause to pupation between 94.9 and 160.4 days. The *C. partellus* larvae undergoing diapause under different temperature and photoperiod conditions took 52.4– 60.9 more number of days than the non-diapausing larvae to complete the development, suggesting that the correct combination of temperature and photoperiod is highly desirable for termination and post-diapause development. The pupal period exceeded from 3.2 to 6.2 days in the diapausing C. partellus larvae under different temperature and photoperiod conditions as compared with non-diapausing larvae, indicating significant effect of hibernation on development of adult characteristics during pupal stage and pupa-adult metamorphosis. Survival of C. partellus larvae undergoing diapause is critical for population pressure buildup on resumption of ambient conditions and damage threshold in the target host crop. Temperature range from 25 to 32°C is suitable for overwintering larvae of C. partellus to terminate diapause (Jalali & Singh, 2006). A few C. partellus larvae underwent diapause under ambient conditions $(27 \pm 1^{\circ}C + 11.5L:12.5D)$ could be due to genetic segregation for diapause and some other unknown reasons, but no population loss was observed due to diapause under these conditions. Further, a population loss of 17.2-28.3% was recorded during hibernation process across different temperature and photoperiod conditions, which is significant number to determine population buildup of first brood after termination of hibernation and has implications for devising appropriate strategies for the management of C. partellus.

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