Dwarf variety of coconut, Cocos nucifera (Palmae), a hostplant for the African armyworm, Spodoptera exempta (Wlk.) (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

Author(s)
Jacob ghadwe Yarro, B. L. Otindo, A. G. Gatehouse, M. C. Lubega

Abstract
The dwarf variety of coconut, Cocos nucifera L. (Palmae), was found to be eaten by the larvae of the African armyworm, Spodoptera exempta (Wlk.). The comparison of the armyworm infestation on the leaves of the coconut seedlings and the adjacent grass species revealed lower larval density and growth rate on coconut seedlings. This observation suggests that a small population of the African armyworm can survive and develop on the leaves of the dwarf variety of coconut.

Key Words
Cocos nucifera;
Coconut dwarf variety;
Armyworm hostplants;
Spodoptera exempta;
Outbreak