Lymantria dispar (Lepidoptera, Erebidae) outbreak in north Iran

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Data on some gypsy moth biology specifics in Iranian forests. Its mass outbreaks shape in agricultural landscapes in the Caspian lowland (more often in poplar plantations) as well as hardwood forests with a share of oak (Quercus sp.), Persian ironwood (Parrotia persica), alder (Alnus sp) and other tree species on Elbrus range slopes up to 1500m above sea level.

Female fertility there is proven to be sufficiently higher than in most of its habitats. Number of eggs in gypsy moth population ovipositions was rather high thus in its mass outbreak in Gorgan province on average in 1 oviposition there were 470,44±32,93 eggs and healthy egg share in 1 oviposition was 60,8%, the rest eggs were either clear or killed by entomophages that proves available crisis developments in a population on average there were 498,64±28,7 eggs in a oviposition.

Hatched caterpillars don't feed on young fresh open leaves as in gypsy noth habitats, There is data that by caterpillar emergence period on Quercus castaniefolia the 8th leaf had already fully shaped.

Gypsy moth in Iran is notable for higher spring evolution temperature threshold that enables its successful evolution at relatively high temperature pattern. Despite high temperatures after egg laying in autumn caterpillars don't emerge. In spring caterpillar emergence is more lengthy compared to gypsy moth north populations. Egg stage mortality is a result of parasitic egg-eater infections in particular from 1-2 to 10-15% of eggs were infested with egg-eater Anastatus japonica. Caterpillars are killed by a combined infection triggered by a nuclear polyherdosis virus and entomopatogenic bacteria Bacillus thuringiensi.