Evaluation of Predatory Efficiency of Larvae of *Toxorhynchites Splendens* Using the Larvae of *Culex* Species

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suitable laboratory conditions. The predatory potential of *T. splendens* larvae was tested using the larvae of *Culex* species. For a single predator larva, 50 and 100 numbers of fourth instar larvae of *Culex* species were given as prey separately. The rate of predation was monitored for five days. The predatory impact (PI) values were ranged between 24.62 and 28.24 larvae per day for prey density of 50. Whereas, the PI values were 34.57 and 39.25 larvae per day for prey density of 100. Based on the results, it was concluded that the larvae of *T. splendens* consumed a good numbers of *Culex* larvae and it can be included as part of an integrated vector control programme.

**Key words:** *Toxorhynchites splendens*, predator, bio-control, mosquitoes.

**Introduction**

Biological control of mosquitoes through the usage of predators and other biological agents is gaining interest recently as an alternative control measures. Vector borne disease control strategies which were emphasized on eliminating preimaginal stages are more effective as compared to adult control which is not very effective and environment friendly.¹² Studies on *Toxorhynchites splendens* (wiedemann) as biological agents for larval mosquito control conducted in several countries showed promising results.⁴,⁵,⁷,¹²,¹⁵ Although insecticides continue to play a significant role in the control of mosquitoes, biological control of mosquitoes with predatory organisms in most instances is more acceptable from an environment stand point and