

**BEHAVIORAL AND DISTRIBUTION CHARACTERISTICS ACCORDING
TO HOST PLANT OF THE BAMBOO BORER
(*Omphisa fuscidentalis* Hampson)
IN THE NORTHWEST REGION OF VIETNAM**

Hoang Thi Hong Nghiep¹, Nguyen The Nha²

¹*Son La College*

²*Vietnam National University of Forestry*

SUMMARY

Behaviors and distribution characteristics of *Omphisa fuscidentalis* in the Northwest region of Vietnam show that after being newly hatched, the larvae bore an entrance hole at an internode of the bamboo. After entering the shoot, they then go back to bore an exit hole by widening the original entrance hole to be able to get out when being mature. The hole is found from the second to the fourteen internode from the root to the top of the bamboo, but mostly from the fifth to ten ones. Boring their way upwards from one bamboo internode to another, the larvae feed on the fresh inner pulp of the bamboo. In average, they migrate through twelve to twenty-two internodes within a bamboo. At the end of the fifth instar, they mature and migrate down to the internode containing the exit hole where they enter a period of diapause until the following May. As they move down, through each bamboo internode, they seal their path with membrane. In this stage, the larvae hardly feed. Then they hang upside down to pupate. The pupa of the bamboo borer is obrect. The adult moth emerge inside the bamboo and escape from the exit hole. After few hours from emergence, the adult starts finding its mate and mating takes place at night. The female lays a cluster of eggs near the base of a newly developed bamboo shoot. In the Northwest region, *O. fuscidentalis* has been found in May sang, Tre da and Buong phan. The most preferred host plant is May sang. Therefore, the larvae feed the most on it. The proportion of clusters of May sang infested with *O. fuscidentalis* account for 61%, where the proportion of infested individual plants is 2.4%. The number of larvae found on all bamboo species ranges from 108-116 individuals/plant with no significant differences between these plant species.

Keywords: Bamboo borer, behaviour, diapause, distribution, host plant, *Omphisa fuscidentalis*.