

## COMUNICAÇÃO

### LIGHT EFFECT ON FEEDING OF FIRST INSTAR *DIPETALOGASTER MAXIMUS* IN XENODIAGNOSIS

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Observations of our laboratory colony of *Dipetalogaster maximus* over a period of ten years suggest that a smaller quantity of blood is being ingested by hungry first instar bugs<sup>1 3</sup>. Since in Mexico the majority of bugs are first instar of diurnal habit it was suggested that feeding might be related to light intensity<sup>2</sup>. The Table 1 shows that in five of six experiments where lots of 100 1<sup>st</sup> instar *D. maximus* were fed in the dark and in daylight conditions; the latter favoured blood ingestion. Observation five suggests that another ambient factor is operating although temperature and humidity conditions were partially controlled. These results suggest that for optimal xenodiagnosis results with maximal feeding 1<sup>st</sup> instar *D. maximus* should be allowed to feed in the light.

Table 1 - Effect of light on the feed of 1<sup>st</sup> instar *Dipetalogaster maximus* (mean weight in milligrams before and after feeding).

Lot	Light		Dark	
	before	after	before	after
1	7.5	41.5	7.8	24.4
2	7.9	46.5	8.0	26.8
3	7.5	47.9	7.3	28.9
4	7.4	42.7	7.4	23.8
5	7.5	53.6	7.4	58.8
6	7.4	47.3	8.2	22.5
Mean	7.6	46.6	7.7	30.9

#### REFERENCES

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