

## HOST PLANTS PREFERRED BY *Tuta absoluta* (MEYRICK, 1917) LARVAE FOR PUPATION

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### Abstract

*Tuta absoluta* also known as the leafminer of tomatoes is an invasive pest able to destroy an entire field or greenhouse with tomato plants in a few days. With this study we intend to prove the preference of larvae for pupation. For the study we have used leaves from five plant species: tomato, eggplant, pepper, fig, and *Solanum nigrum*. Three randomly chosen types of leaves were placed in Petri dish. The most prevalent preference of larvae was for the tomato leaves, followed by *Solanum nigrum* while the eggplant showed little attraction for the larvae and pepper leaves were untouched. From this study we can conclude that tomato leaves were the most preferred by *T. absoluta* larvae for their pupation.

**Key words:** larvae pupation, tomato leafminer, invasive pest