

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**WATERLILY LEAF CUTTER MOTH, *ELOPHILA OBLITERALIS* (WALKER)
(INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE: ACENTROPINAE): AN
ECONOMIC THREAT TO INDIAN AQUATIC GARDENS**

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***Abstract:** Both commercially and among hobbyists, waterlilies and lotus cultivation is a very new and blooming sector in aquatic gardens in India. These plants can be easily grown indoor sometimes and within plastic containers even. The different colours and shapes of these hybrid lotus and waterlily varieties are getting popular day by day and the aquatic garden is a flourishing business specially in southern and western parts of India because of the climatic condition. A study on aquatic garden plants was conducted for two years, 2021-22 and 2022-23 in Diamond Harbour, West Bengal. Many insect pests are found to cause damage the different parts of the plants. Among them, the larvae of leaf cutter moth, *Elophila oblitalis* were very common and tough to eradicate from the aquascapes and the nursery pools of the aquatic farms which causes heavy economic losses. From the economic point of view, further studies are required to control this leaf cutter moth in aquatic gardens.*

Key words: Indian aquatic plant market, waterlily pests, economic losses, *Elophila oblitalis* (Walker).