

*Heliothis armigera* (Hb.) was shown to be capable of growing and developing on a simple diet that was based principally on grass meal made from star grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Neonatal *H. armigera* larvae introduced into the diet developed, pupated and emerged successfully. There was no significant difference between the growth rate of larvae reared on the natural diet and the grass-meal-based diet. Adults from the latter diet had a higher emergence rate, but female fecundity was not significantly different.