

RESEARCH PAPER

Shelf-life and infectivity study of carrier formulations of entomogenous fungus *Nomuraea rileyi* (Farlow) Samson

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N. rileyi formulated in different carriers viz., talc, kaoline, charcol, wheat bran, soil and lignite stored at 4°C and room temperature for six months storage to assess viability and infectiveness against third instars larvae of *H. armigera*. All carriers retained the viability in sufficient numbers for a period of 150 days at 4°C temperature. However, after 180 days of storage significant reduction was observed in all carriers. Kaoline supported maximum propagules i.e. 14.21×10^6 cfu/g followed by lignite (11.95×10^6 cfu/g) after 180 days of storage at 4°C temperature. Viability was drastically reduced when carrier's formulations stored at room temperature. Kaoline formulation stored at 4°C was efficient as recorded maximum larval mortality of *H. armigera* at 60, 120 and 180 days followed by lignite. However, at room temperature drastic reduction in per cent larval mortality of *H. armigera* (ranged of 16.67 to 43.33%) was observed.

Key words : *N. rileyi*, Carrier formulations, Viability, Infectivity

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