

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Efficacy of new formulations of flocoumafen and difenacoum against lesser bandicoot rat, *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray) in Rabi rice

■ Ch. V. Narasimha Rao and B. Anusha

SUMMARY

Employing poison baiting by using rodenticides is the most preferred choice of rodent control in field crops as well as orchard crops. The lesser bandicoot rat, *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray) is the most important rodent species infesting rice and other field crops. In order to contain the rat population, second generation anticoagulants, flocoumafen and difenacoum in the form of cake formulations were evaluated against *B. bengalensis* in rabi rice crop in Andhra Pradesh. Both the rodenticides including bromadiolone has recorded significant percent reduction of lesser bandicoot rat @ 0.005% concentration after every pulse. Overall efficacy after analyzing pooled data of two pulses in rabi season, flocoumafen 0.005% Mini bait block @ 8 g bait blocks /burrow achieved 82.23 per cent CS on LBC/ha basis and 78.77 per cent CS on tiller basis followed by 74.08 per cent on LBC/ha basis and 69.36 per cent on tiller basis in case of Difenacoum 0.005% Mini bait block @ 8g/burrow which is significantly superior over Bromadiolone. Flocoumafen rodenticide found highly effective and significantly superior in containing the live burrow counts and tiller damage caused by *B. bengalensis* in rice.

Key Words : Flocoumafen, Difenacoum, Bromadiolone, *Bandicota bengalensis*, Rice

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Rats create a great nuisance by causing extensive damage to field crops and structural damage in residential premises, besides transmitting several dreaded zoonotic diseases among humans and their animals. In India, among the pest rodent species, The lesser bandicoot rat, *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray) is a predominant and more challenging in rice ecosystem. These rodents often inflict 10-15% tiller damage in rice