

# *In vitro* efficacy of *Beauveria bassiana* (Balsamo) Vuill., *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metsch.) Sorokin and *Lecanicillium lecanii* (Zimmerman) against *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) and *Ferrisia virgata* (Cockerell) (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae)

■ RAJESH ILLATHUR\* AND R. PHILIP SRIDHAR

Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) and *Ferrisia virgata* (Cockerell) were mass cultured in insectary using hibiscus plants, potato sprouts and the different stages were maintained to conduct bioassay. Entomopathogenic fungi *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, *Lecanicillium lecanii* was sub-cultured on SDAY. Spore suspensions of concentration (  $1 \times 10^8$  conidia/ml) of seven isolates (BbBp1, BbGW1, BbBM1, MaBp1, MaBm1, LiBm1, LiMo1) were prepared from the 15 day old culture of the fungi. A preliminary study on *B. bassiana* against *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) and *Ferrisia virgata* (Cockerell) female adults was done. untreated (sterile water) were used as controls. Mortality of pink mealy bug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green)) adults under laboratory condition was recorded at different intervals where entomopathogens (% mortality after 9<sup>th</sup> day) like LiMo1 (93.33%), BbGW1 (80.00%) and MaBm1 (63.33%). The mortality of guava mealy bug [*Ferrisia virgata* (Cockerell)] adults under laboratory condition was recorded at different intervals where entomopathogens (% mortality after 9<sup>th</sup> day) like LiMo1 (96.55%), BbBp1 (86.21%) and MaBp1 (65.52%).

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\*Corresponding author:

Email : [rajeshreddy106@gmail.com](mailto:rajeshreddy106@gmail.com)