

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Evaluation the efficacy of bio pesticides against gram pod borer *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) on chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.).

■ S. Patel, V. K. Garg and S. Balpande

SUMMARY

Evaluation of six insecticides viz., *Azadiractin* 1% (1000ppm) *Neem* oil, *Baeuveria bassiana* 1% WP, *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP, *Metarhizium anisopliae* 1.0% WP, *Verticillium lecanii* 1.15% WP and *Ha* NPV 250 LE were evaluated against Gram Pod Borer (*Helicoverpa armigera* Hubner) larvae. The Gram Pod Borer (GPB) larval population was counted on 5 randomly selected plants at 24 hr. before spray and at 3, 7 and 10 days after spray. The two-years experiment was conducted during *Rabi* 2018-19 and 2019-20 at the Rehti Farm of school of Agriculture, Mhow, experimental field of Department of Entomology, BRAUSS, (MP). All the biopesticides significantly reduced the GPB larval population. The Pooled GPB population varied from 2.30 to 2.50 larvae/plant during *Rabi* season one day prior to the first spray. The population was significantly lower with *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP, followed by *Ha* NPV 250 LE, *Baeuveria bassiana* 1% WP, *Metarhizium anisopliae* 1.0% WP and *Azadiractina* 1% (1000ppm) *Neem* oil, these five biopesticides are showing best management effects on the GPB larvae and pod damaging per cent and remain, and least effective treatment was *Verticillium lecanii* 1.15% WP. The maximum reduction of larval population and pod damaging per cent. In *Rabi* season, the highest chickpea grain yield was obtained with *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* at 5% WP.

Key Words : Chickpea, Gram pod borer, Grain yield *Ha* NPV, *Azadiractina*, *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki*

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Chickpea or gram is one of the most important pulse crop of India. It is also known as the king of pulses. It is the third most important pulse crop after peas and dry bean. This crop is grown on moderately heavy, black cotton and sandy loam soils. However, Fertile sandy loam to clay loam soils with good internal drainage are best suitable for its cultivation. Soils should not be heavy alkaline in nature. Ideal pH range of 5.5 to 7.0 is suitable for chickpea farming.

Helicoverpa armigera (Hubner) (Lepidoptera : Noctuidae) is a cosmopolitan, polyphagous and notorious pest that attacks numerous agricultural crops and is widely distributed in the tropics and sub-tropics. The low yield of chickpea is attributed to the regular outbreaks of pod borer *H. armigera*, which is considered one of the major pests of chickpea. Conventionally farmers are using various types of synthetic chemical insecticides to control gram pod borer. But due to the unconscious and unjustified use of synthetic pesticides, several problems have arisen in agro-ecosystem, such as direct toxicity to beneficial insects, aquatic animals, and humans. The repeated use of chemical insecticides alone has resulted in the development of resistance in the insect pest and disturbance to the agroecosystem by affecting the non-targets (Garg *et al.*, 2015). The increasing concerns of environmental awareness of pesticide hazards have evoked a worldwide interest in using pest control agents of bio and plant origin. These bio-control agents and botanical pesticides are safer to be used in pest control programs and may prevent several adverse effects caused by synthetic insecticidal applications (Rajasekaran and Kumarswamy, 1985). Biopesticides based on microbial and botanical products are efficacious and promising agents. Neem, *A. indica*. is known to affect larvae of various lepidopteran and coleopteran pests. *B. thuringiensis* (*Bt*) is a spore-forming, gram-positive bacteria – that produces proteinaceous crystal at the time of sporulation. These crystals have shown potential against lepidopteran, dipteran and coleopteran pests (Dhaliwal and Koul, 2007). In India, scientists have done extensive studies on evaluating the efficacy of Biopesticides against gram pod borer in chickpea. Keeping in view, the present study was undertaken as location-specific testing to evaluate the bioefficacy of specific bio pesticides against the pod borer in the chickpea ecosystem.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with seven treatments *viz.*, *Azadiractina* 1 % (1000ppm) *Neem* oil@1500ml, *Baeuveriabassiana* 1 % WP@3000gm, *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5 % WP@3000gm, *Metarhiziumanisopliae* 1.0% @ 3000gm, *Verticilliumlecanii* 1.15 % WP and HaNPV 250LE/ha including untreated control, using three replications. The plot size was 5.0 × 6.0 m², keeping row to row and plant plant distances are 30 cm and 10

cm, respectively, on evaluation of bio-pesticides against gram pod borer on chickpea during 2018-19 and 2019-20 at the experimental field of Department of Entomology, Rehti Farm of the school of agriculture Mhow, BRAUSS, (MP). The seeds of variety JG-14 were sown on November 12, 2018 and November 11, 2019. There were seven treatments, including control. All the six biopesticides treatments were applied as a foliar spray. The untreated (control) plot was also maintained for comparison with the water spray. The first spray was given on the economic threshold level of the pod borer, whereas the second spray was given after one fortnight after the first spray.

Observations were recorded before twenty-four hours of each spray as pretreatment and after 3, 7 and 10 days upto two sprayings. Larval counts and pod damage were recorded from five randomly selected and tagged plants per treatment. Pod damage was converted in percentage. Based on these observations, mean data was worked out and statistically analysed after suitable transformation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Larval population of *H. armigera* (H.) :

In both first application of bio-pesticides at 24 hr. before insecticide application, *H. armigera* (Gram Pod Borer) larval population was uniformly distributed among different treatments, the differences amongst them being non-significant but the second spray pooled data was found statistically significance due to long term effect of some first spray treatment effect and the pooled 24 hr. before treatment application data minimum larval population was recorded in *Azadiractina* 1% (1000ppm) *Neem* oil and *Baeuveriabassiana* 1% WP (2.20 and 2.20 larvae/plant).

All the first Bio pesticide treatments pooled data (table 1) proved significantly better than the untreated control in controlling the *Helicoverpa armigera* (H.) infesting Chickpea crop during both *Rabi* crop seasons under investigations. At 3 days after spray (DAS), *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP resulted in significantly highest suppression of *H. armigera* population (1.30 larvae/plant) which was statistically superior (significantly) to all other treatments and

untreated control (2.67 larvae/plant). However, at the pooled 7 DAS, the *H. armigera* population *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP, *Baeuveriabassiana* 1% WP and *HaNPV* 250 LE was 0.73, 0.74 and 0.83 larvae/plant, respectively, the three being at par with each other but significantly superior to all other treatments and the untreated control (2.90 larvae/plant). After 10 DAS, minimum larval population was recorded in *Bacillus thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP (0.82 larvae/plant) but it was at par with *Ha NPV* 250 LE and *Baeuveriabassiana* 1% WP (1.03 and 1.13 larvae/plant, respectively) and maximum larval population was recorded in *Verticilliumlecanii* 1.15% WP (1.43 larvae/plant) except untreated control (2.93 larvae/plant). The pooled mean data of the first spray revealed that the minimum larval population was recorded in *Bacillus*

thuriangiensis var *kurstaki* 5% WP, *Baeuveria bassiana* 1% WP, *HaNPV* 250 LE, *Metarhizium anisopliae* 1.0% WP and *Azadiractina* 1% (1000ppm). the five being at par with each other and significantly superior to *V. lecanii* 1.15% WP and UTC (1.75 and 2.71 larvae/plant). These findings were supported by earlier workers *i.e.*, Kumawat and Jheeba (1999), Cherry *et al.* (2000), Satpute and Mote (2002), Kumar *et al.* (2004), Ram and Agrawal (2007), Hossain (2007), Byrappa *et al.* (2009), Singh *et al.* (2009), Amrapali *et al.* (2011), Haris and Khan (2011), Mehlhorn *et al.* (2011), Bajya *et al.* (2010) and Kambrekar *et al.* (2018).

The second application of Biopesticide 3 DAS, the *B. thuriangiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP and *Ha NPV* 250 LE (1.63 and 1.83 larvae/plant, respectively) was at par and statistically significantly superior to all other

Table 1: Bio efficacy evaluation of bio-chemical insecticides against gram pod borer (*H armigera*) larval population

Treatments	Form/ha. (Kg/L)	Pooled mean larval population/ plant										% pod damage	Grain yield (q/ ha.)
		First spray					Second spray						
		DBS	3 DAS	7 DAS	10 DAS	MEAN	DBS	3 DAS	7 DAS	10 DAS	MEAN		
Azadiractina 1% (1000ppm) Neem oil	1.5 L	2.37 (1.69)	2.07 (1.60)	1.10 (1.26)	1.17 (1.29)	1.68 (1.48)	2.20 (1.64)	2.03 (1.59)	1.02 (1.23)	1.57 (1.44)	1.71 (1.48)	2.62 (9.32)	13.65
<i>Baeuveriabassiana</i> 1% WP	3 Kg	2.37 (1.69)	2.33 (1.68)	0.74 (1.12)	1.13 (1.28)	1.58 (1.43)	2.20 (1.64)	2.07 (1.60)	0.93 (1.20)	0.97 (1.21)	1.50 (1.41)	2.36 (8.84)	
<i>Bacillus thuriangiensis</i> / var <i>kurstaki</i> 5% WP	3 Kg	2.30 (1.67)	1.30 (1.34)	0.73 (1.11)	0.82 (1.15)	1.51 (1.42)	2.40 (1.7)	1.63 (1.46)	0.86 (1.17)	0.80 (1.14)	1.48 (1.40)	2.03 (8.19)	16.91
<i>Metarhiziumanisopliae</i> 1.0% WP	3 Kg	2.30 (1.67)	2.20 (1.64)	1.00 (1.22)	1.17 (1.29)	1.63 (1.46)	2.27 (1.66)	2.07 (1.60)	1.03 (1.24)	1.57 (1.44)	1.73 (1.49)	2.54 (9.16)	
<i>Verticilliumlecanii</i> 1.15% WP	2.5 Kg	2.50 (1.73)	2.27 (1.66)	1.00 (1.22)	1.43 (1.39)	1.75 (1.50)	2.30 (1.67)	2.30 (1.67)	1.17 (1.29)	1.50 (1.41)	1.82 (1.52)	3.04 (10.04)	13.03
<i>HaNPV</i>	250 LE	2.37 (1.69)	2.17 (1.63)	0.83 (1.15)	1.03 (1.24)	1.59 (1.44)	2.27 (1.66)	1.83 (1.53)	0.92 (1.19)	1.07 (1.25)	1.53 (1.42)	2.48 (9.06)	
UTC (water)		2.33 (1.68)	2.67 (1.78)	2.90 (1.84)	2.93 (1.85)	2.71 (1.79)	2.97 (1.86)	3.07 (1.89)	3.23 (1.93)	3.03 (1.88)	3.08 (1.89)	8.94 (17.40)	9.76
S.E.±		0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.09	
C.D.(P=0.05)		NS	0.09	0.12	0.14	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.30	1.21

() Figures in parenthesis are square-root transformed value, DBS= day before spraying, DAS= days after Spraying. NS=Non-Significant

Table 2 : Pooled data of bio insecticide expenditure and cost of cultivation (Rs. /ha)

Treatments	The total cost of cultivation (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	Grain yield (q/ ha.)	Gross returns (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	Net income (Rs. ha ⁻¹)	B:C Ratio
Azadiractina 1%(1000ppm) Neem oil	27024	13.65	64798.36	37774.36	1:2.40
<i>Baeuveriabassiana</i> 1% WP	26824	15.68	74460.29	47636.29	1:2.78
<i>Bacillus thuriangiensis</i> var <i>kurstaki</i> 5% WP	26624	16.91	80319.86	53695.86	1:3.02
<i>Metarhiziumanisopliae</i> 1.0% WP	27874	14.25	67659.6	39785.6	1:2.43
<i>Verticilliumlecanii</i> 1.15% WP	26924	13.03	61872.68	34948.68	1:2.30
<i>HaNPV</i>	26864	15.06	71534.68	44670.68	1:2.66
UTC [water]	25424	9.76	46359.68	20935.68	1:1.82

treatments and untreated control (3.07 larvae/plant). However, at the pooled 7 DAS, the *H. armigera* population *B. thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP, *Ha* NPV 250 LE, *B. bassiana* 1% WP and *Azadiractina* 1% (1000ppm) *Neem* oil and *M. anisopliae* 1.0% WP was 0.86, 0.92, 0.93, 1.02 and 1.03 larvae/plant, respectively, the five being at par with each other and significantly superior to *V. lecanii* 1.15% WP and UTC (1.17 and 3.23 larvae/plant). After 10 DAS, minimum larval population was recorded in *B.s thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP (0.80 larvae/plant) but it was at par with *B.a bassiana* 1% WP (0.97 larvae/plant) followed by *Ha* NPV 250 LE (1.07 larvae/plant) and maximum larval population was recorded in *Metarhizium anisopliae* 1.0% WP (1.57 larvae/plant) except untreated control (3.03 larvae/plant). The pooled mean first spray data revealed that the minimum larval population was recorded in *B. thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP and *B.bassiana* 1% WP (1.48 and 1.50 larvae/plant, respectively), the two being at par with each other and significantly superior to remain all treatments except UTC (3.08 larvae/plant). The above findings are supported by findings of the scientists Bhatt and Patel (2002), Dhingra *et al.* (2002), Gowda and Yelshetty (2005), Gupta (2007), Bharti *et al.* (2009), Bhushan *et al.* (2011), Devi *et al.* (2011) and Kumar *et al.* (2018).

Per cent pod damage :

The pooled data of pod damaging per cent data presented in Table 2, data revealed the minimum pod damage per cent was recorded in *B thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5 % WP (2.03 %) in reducing the per cent pod damage from the rest of the treatments. The *B. bassiana* 1 % WP (2.36 %) was found second best, and it was at par with *Ha* NPV @ 250 LE/ha (2.45 %). The maximum per cent pod damage was recorded in *V. lecanii* 1.15 % WP (3.04 %) except untreated control (water) (8.94 %). These results agree with those of previously scientific findings *viz.*, Singh *et al.* (1999), Bhatt and Patel (2002), Kumar and Malik (1997), Mandal *et al.*, (2003) Gowda and Yelshetty (2005), Hossain (2007) and Ram and Agrawal (2007).

Economic of biochemical insecticides:

The pooled data on bio-chemical treatments economics-related presented in Table 3. The findings are revealed the maximum cost of cultivation was recorded in *M. anisopliae* 1.0% WP (27874 Rs. /ha.) and the

minimum cost of cultivation was recorded in *B. thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP (26624 Rs./ha.) except untreated control. The maximum grain yield (q/ha.), gross returns (Rs./ha), net income (Rs./ha) and B:C ratio was recorded in *B. thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP (16.91 q/ha., 80319.86 Rs./ha., 53695.86 Rs./ha. and 1:3.02, respectively) and the minimum cost of cultivation was recorded in *B. thuriengiensis* var *kurstaki* 5% WP (26624 Rs./ha.). The minimum grain yield (q/ha.), gross returns (Rs./ha), net income (Rs./ha) and B:C ratio were recorded in *V. lecanii* 1.15% WP (13.03 q/ha., 61872.68 Rs./ha., 34948.68 Rs./ha. and 1:20.30, respectively) except untreated control earlier workers Mandal *et al.* (2003) and Singh and Yadav (2006) agreed with present results.

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