

INTEGRATION OF SOME BIOPESTICIDES AND *TRICHOGRAMMA CHILONIS* FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RICE LEAF FOLDER, *CNAPHALOCROCIS MEDINALIS* (GUENEE) (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE)

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Present project was carried out to check the efficacy of microbial and botanical insecticide against *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*, to assess the effective dose of *Trichogramma chilonis* for a successful control of the rice leaf folder and study the synergistic effect of *Trichogramma* sp. and biopesticides for the sustainable control of *C. medinalis*. It is evident from the results that minimum post treatment increase in infestation (2.67%) was recorded against T₃ (1,00,000 eggs) and was, statistically at par, with that recorded from T₄ (1,25,000 eggs) with an increase in percent infestation of 3.683%. These differed significantly from those recorded from T₁ and T₂ with infestation increase of 5.17 and 4.59% respectively. Maximum increase in post treatment infestation was recorded in control treatment. The results of the experiment related to biopesticides shows that neem and Bt gave good results and shown minimum post treatment increase in infestation. 6.087 and 4.093% respectively. The results of the experiment regarding the integration of the best treatments of the *Trichogramma* egg releases and bio-pesticides shows that minimum increase in post treatment infestation (1.373%) was recorded from those plots which were treated with *Trichogramma* + Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) + Neem (T₆) and was statistically at par with T₅, T₄ and T₂ which showed 2.15, 2.40 and 2.506% increase in post treatment infestation of *C. medinalis*. The control treatment showed maximum increase in post treatment increase of infestation of *C. medinalis* (8.053%).

Keywords: Rice leaf folder, *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*, *Trichogramma chilonis*, biopesticides, neem, *Bacillus thuringiensis*

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is a major export commodity and occupies a significant positions in the predominantly agricultural economy of Pakistan. One of the major yields limiting factors is the attack of insect pests that cause 20-30% losses every year (Inayatullah *et al.*, 1986; Salim *et al.*, 2001). The rice leaf folder (RLF), *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* (Guenée), is a major insect pest of rice. In Pakistan, this pest multiplies enormously, with a severe incidence observed during August-September 1989-90 cropping season. The overall leaf infestation by RLF was seen to be 25 % which reduced the grain yield upto 30% in major rice growing tracts of Punjab. However, at some locations the infestation was found to be 50% (Salim *et al.*, 1991). Changes in the physical environments, cultural practices, multiple cropping patterns, reduced genetic variability of high yielding rice varieties, application of high levels of nitrogenous fertilizer and a prophylactic use of pesticides are the major reasons of the RLF problem (Khan *et al.*, 1989, Dale, 1994. Shepard *et al.*, 1991 and De Kraker *et al.*, 2000). Management of RLF using synthetic chemicals has failed because of the pest resistance against them as well as the pest resurgence and environment pollution (Dale, 1994).

Trichogramma chilonis is an effective egg-parasitoid of rice leaf folder. It parasitizes the eggs of rice stem borers also. After rearing it in the laboratory, its population can be augmented in the field to reduce the reliance on the chemicals for the control of lepidopteran pest insect of rice. Khan *et al.*, 2005, reported that the increase in paddy yield after augmentative releases of *T. chilonis*, over control, ranged from 33 to 89.5 kg/acre.

Since the insecticide resistance has limited the effectiveness of many chemical insecticides, an intensive effort has been made to find out alternate methods of control (Senthil Nathan *et al.*, 2004). Botanical insecticides and microbial pesticides are highly effective, safe, and ecologically acceptable. Plants produce a diversity of biologically active substances that affect the growth and development of other organisms and can provide protection against the herbivores. These plant products discourage or prevent an attack from the non-adapted organisms and play an important role in the ecology and physiology of phytophagous insects (Sukumar, 1993). *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) Berliner is a naturally occurring gram positive, spore forming soil bacterium, and preparations containing Bt are widely used as microbial pesticides in agriculture and forestry (Gill *et al.*, 1992).

Chemical preparations from the leaves and seeds of the Indian neem tree, *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. (Meliaceae), have been shown to have deleterious effects on the insects (Schmutterer, 1990). Neem seed kernel extracts (NSKEs) have suppressed the feeding, growth, and reproduction aspects of the pest insects (Ascher *et al.*, 1984) and have, thus, been used in many integrated pest management (IPM) programs. It is generally believed that the bioactivity of nm is due to its complex limonoids (Mordue and Blackwell, 1993; Mordue and Nisbet, 2000; Huang *et al.*, 2004), but the spectrum and level of its efficacy are yet unknown against the rice leaf folder in the field. Similarly fruit extract of draik, *Melia azedarach*, elicit a variety of effects, such as, antifeedant, growth retardation, reduced fecundity, moulting disorders, morphogenetic defects, and changes of behaviour (Schmidt *et al.*, 1997 and Schmidt *et al.*, 1998).

Present project was carried out to check the efficacy of microbial and botanical insecticide against *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*, to assess the effective dose of *T. chilonis* for a successful control of the rice leaf folder and study the synergistic effect of *Trichogramma* sp. and biopesticides for the sustainable control of *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experiments were conducted on the Experimental farms of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The nursery of super basmati was sown on June 05, 2006 on well prepared raised beds and about one month old seedlings were transplanted in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replications, in the fields with normal spacing of 9 inches @ two seedlings per hill. All the recommended agronomic practices were adopted during the experimentation.

Use of *Trichogramma* sp.

Trichogramma sp. reared on the eggs of *Sitotroga cerealella* and parasitized, egg-pasted cards were applied under different treatments (75000, 100000, 125000, 150000 eggs) to check their efficacy against RLF. Data were collected again on the basis of damaged/folded leaves.

Use of Biopesticides

Extracts from the leaves and seeds of *Azadirachta indica* and *Melia azadirach* (Darek) were obtained by soaking them in boiled water for two hours. This soak, was left for two days and the extract sieved through muslin cloth. After the calibration of area for each treatment, the extract were sprayed over to the cultivar, sown in RCBD. The experiment was repeated thrice.

Formulations of *Bacillus thuriengiensis*, and *Saccharopolyspora spinosa* (spinosad) were also used as microbial insecticide. Recommended dose of the Bt and spinosad were used in triply replicated experiment. Data were collected, one week after application of bio-pesticides, on the basis of damaged or folded leave by using following formula.

$$\text{Folded leaves \%} = \frac{\text{No. of infested leaves per hill}}{\text{No. of total leaves per hill}} \times \frac{\text{No. of infested hills}}{\text{No. of hills in sample area}} \times 100$$

Integration of *Trichogramma* and Biopesticides

Best treatments of egg release of *Trichogramma*, botanical and microbial insecticides were selected and next year (2007) were used alone and in integration with each other to control the rice leaf folder in a sustainable manner. For integration studies following treatments were used

- T1= *Trichogramma* (1,00,000 eggs/acre)
- T2= Neem
- T3= Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
- T4= *Trichogramma* + Bt
- T5= *Trichogramma* + Neem
- T6= Neem + Bt + *Trichogramma*
- T7= Control

RESULTS

Table1 shows the efficacy of different doses of egg releases of *Trichogramma* sp. against *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*, this table reveals a significant difference among the treatments. The means were compared by Tukey HSD (P=0.05) given in Table-2. It is evident from the results that minimum post treatment increase in infestation (2.67%) was recorded against T₃ (1,00,000 eggs) and was, statistically at par, with that recorded from T₄ (1,25,000 egg) with an increase in percent infestation of 3.683%. These differed significantly from those recorded from T₁ and T₂ with infestation increase of 5.17 and 4.59% respectively. Maximum increase in post treatment infestation was recorded in control treatment.

Table 1. Analysis of variance for the data regarding the post treatment increase in infestation caused by *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* (Guenee) against different bio-insecticides in rice crop

SOV	Degree of Freedom	SS	MS	
Replications	2	1.0301	0.5151	3.512 ^{N.S.}
Treatments	4	67.6449	16.9112	115.322 **
Error	8	1.1731	0.1466	
Total	14	69.8482		

Table 2. Means of the data regarding post treatment increase in infestation by rice leaf folder against different biopesticides

Treatments	Means of percent increase in infestations of RLF \pm Std. Error
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	4.093 \pm 0.175 a
Spinosad	7.833 \pm 0.139 b
Neem	6.087 \pm 0.534 ab
Darek	8.850 \pm 0.150 bc
Control	10.157 \pm 0.094 c

Table-3 indicates the efficacy of different bio-pesticides (botanical + microbial) against *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*, this table also reveals significant difference among the treatments. The means were compared by Tukey HSD ($P=0.05$) given in Table-4. It is evident from the results that neem and Bt showed good results and shown minimum post treatment increase in infestation. 6.087 and 4.093% respectively. These differed significantly from those recorded from T2 and T4 with infestation increase of 7.833 and 8.850 % respectively. Maximum increase in post treatment increase in infestation (10.157%) was recorded in control treatment.

Table 3. Analysis of variance for the data regarding the post treatment increase in infestation caused by *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* (Guenée) against egg releases of *Trichogramma chilonis* in rice crop.

SOV	Degree of Freedom	SS	MS	F. Ratio
Replications	2	0.3242	0.1621	0.418 N.S.
Treatments	4	66.6916	16.6729	42.9882 **
Error	8	3.1028	0.3878	
Total	14	70.1186		

Table 4. Means of the data regarding post treatment increase in infestation by rice leaf folder against different egg releases of *Trichogramma chilonis* in rice crop

<i>Trichogramma</i> Egg releases	Means of percent increase in infestations of RLF \pm Std. Error
50,000	5.170 \pm 0.276 b
75,000	4.59 \pm 0.326 b
1,00,000	2.670 \pm 0.340 a
1,25,000	3.683 \pm 0.355 ab
Control	8.856 \pm 0.383 c

The results of the experiment regarding the integration of the best treatments of the *Trichogramma* egg releases and bio-pesticides are given in Table-5 which shows that there is significant difference among treatments of this experiment. The means compared by Tukey HSD ($P=0.05$) are given in Table-6. The results shows that minimum increase in post treatment infestation (1.373%) was recorded from those plots which were treated with *Trichogramma* + Bt + Neem

(T₆) and was statistically at par with T₅, T₄ and T₂ which showed 2.15, 2.40 and 2.506% increase in post treatment infestation of *C. medinalis*. The control treatment showed maximum increase in post treatment increase of infestation of RLF (8.053%).

Table 5. Analysis of variance for the data regarding the post treatment increase in infestation caused by *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis* (Guenée) against different treatments of integration of *Trichogramma* and biopesticides in rice crop

SOV	Degree of Freedom	SS	MS	F. Ratio
Replications	2	0.9506	0.4753	1.2487
Treatments	6	103.1666	17.1944	45.1725
Error	12	4.5677	0.3806	
Total	20			

Table 6. Means of the data regarding post treatment increase in infestation by rice leaf folder against different treatments of integration of *Trichogramma* and biopesticides in rice crop

Treatments	Means of percent increase in infestations of RLF
<i>Trichogramma</i>	3.900000 \pm 0.258650
Bt	2.506667 \pm 0.299462
Neem	5.816667 \pm 0.390142
<i>Trichogramma</i> + Bt	2.400000 \pm 0.252389
<i>Trichogramma</i> + Neem	2.150000 \pm 0.506590
<i>Trichogramma</i> + Bt + neem	1.373333 \pm 0.317087
Control	8.053333 \pm 0.435941

DISCUSSION

The application of biological control is increasing because of greater environment awareness and food safety concerns and due to the failure of conventional chemicals due to development of resistance in insect pests (Dent, 1993). In the present studies integration of bio-pesticides (microbial + Botanical) and egg parasitoid, *Trichogramma* sp. was made for the sustainable management of Rice Leaf folder. Our studies reveals that use of bio-pesticides has enhanced the effectiveness of *Trichogramma chilonis*. Hassan (1994) used *Trichogramma* to control some 28 different caterpillar pest attacking different crops including rice. Mohanraj *et al.*, (1995) used *Trichogramma* for the control of stem borers. In Assam, Punjab, Gujrat and Tamil Nadu, integrated use of biocontrol agents and Bt was effective in reducing rice stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas*) populations. Singh *et al.* (2001) reported that BIMP modules at different crop stages were useful in management of rice stem

borers and Rice Leaf Folder. Our results are also in accordance with the results of Khan *et al.*, 2005 who studied the bio-efficacy of *Trichogramma* spp. against leaf folder in rice ecosystem. They reported that all the doses used in the inundative releases of egg parasitoids were found effective over the control but the releases at the rate of 1,00,000 ha⁻¹ was found to be superior over the lower dose. Bentur *et al.*, (1994) reported that leaf damage caused by leaf folder has negative correlation with the number of parasitoid releases.

The biopesticides based on fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* and bacteria *B. thuringiensis* (Bt) were used against stem borer and leaf folder of rice, which have reduced the population of these pests in the laboratory and in the field (Shahid *et al.* 2003). They recommended the use of biopesticides for the control of rice pests with no harmful effect on its predators as in case with chemical pesticides.

Neem seed kernel extract is an antifeedant and insect growth regulator against many insect pests (Schmutterer, 1990; Mordue and Blackwell, 1993). The growth regulatory effect is the most important physiological effect of neem on insects. It is because of this property that neem has emerged as a source of insecticides. Antifeedant activity and inhibition of hormone and enzyme activity have been attributed to the tetranortriterpenoid, azadirachtin, in the extract (Ma *et al.*, 2000; Zabel *et al.*, 2002; Thacker *et al.*, 2003; Nathen *et al.*, 2004; Nathen *et al.*, 2005a,b). Our results are contradicted with the results of Keshaw, 2000 who reported that neemactin (Azadirachtin 1500 ppm) alone failed to provide adequate protection from rice leaf folder, it was highly effective against brown plant hoppers.

Fruit extracts of *Melia azedarach* elicit a variety of effects in insects, such as growth retardation, reduced fecundity, moulting disorders, morphogenetic defects, and changes in behavior (Ascher *et al.*, 1995). The antifeedant and insecticidal effects of *M. azedarach* extracts are known for many insects (Sexena *et al.*, 1984; Schmidt *et al.*, 1998; Juan *et al.*, 2000).

The conclusion of this study indicate that bio-insecticides (neem and Bt) affect the pest insect and they can be used in integration with egg parasitoid, *Trichogramma* to enhance its bio-efficacy against *C. medinalis*. Plant extracts and microbial formulations may be an effective alternative to conventional synthetic insecticides. The use of these biopesticides may play a more prominent role in integrated pest control programmes in future.

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