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EFFECT OF SEED TREATMENT WITH PESTICIDES ON THE INCIDENCE OF SHOOTFLY ON PEARL MILLET

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Effect of seed treatment with insecticides, fungicides and their combinations on the occurrence of dead hearts due to shootfly *Atherigona approximata* was studied. Monocrotophos followed by chlorpyrifos and phosalone at 4 ml per kg of seed were effective in reducing dead hearts caused by *A. approximata*. The fungicides, thiram and carbendazim individually or in combination were ineffective in reducing dead hearts caused by shootfly.

Shoot cum earhead fly, *Atherigona approximata* Malloch is a very important pest which attacks pearl millet crop both in vegetative and earhead stages causing considerable loss. Jotwani *et al.* (1969) reported the infestation of *A. approximata* on pearl millet causing 47 per cent dead hearts in a plot in Coimbatore. The present study reports the effect of seed treatment with insecticides and fungicides on the

occurrence of dead hearts due to shootfly.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The pearl millet seeds were treated with three insecticides *viz.*, chlorpyrifos, phosalone and monocrotophos at 4ml per kg, two fungicides, carbendazim at 2g per kg and thiram at 6 g per kg and also the combination of insecticides and fungicides.

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SEED TREATMENT ON THE INCIDENCE OF SHOOTFLY

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Effect of seed treatment with pesticides on the occurrence of dead hearts

Treatment	Period after seed treatment in months												Mean
	0				2				4				
	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	
fazim	9.93 (18.37)	17.87 (25.01)	23.65 (29.10)	26.37 (30.90)	10.50 (18.91)	18.10 (25.18)	24.83 (29.89)	28.10 (32.01)	19.88 (26.48)	23.16 (28.77)	28.52 (32.88)	33.23 (35.20)	21.58 (27.68)
fazim + Chlorpyrifos	3.55 (10.86)	8.22 (16.66)	13.98 (21.96)	15.93 (23.52)	9.93 (18.37)	10.23 (18.65)	15.76 (23.39)	16.43 (23.91)	12.89 (21.04)	12.66 (20.84)	21.45 (27.59)	25.49 (30.32)	13.41 (21.42)
fazim + Monocrotophos	5.59 (13.67)	8.43 (16.88)	12.53 (20.73)	18.18 (25.24)	9.70 (18.15)	10.54 (18.94)	13.86 (21.86)	17.36 (24.62)	12.18 (20.43)	10.45 (18.86)	12.99 (21.13)	16.70 (24.12)	12.13 (20.38)
fazim + Phosalone	9.70 (18.15)	9.93 (18.37)	17.66 (24.85)	19.07 (25.89)	9.63 (18.08)	14.79 (22.62)	18.56 (25.52)	19.66 (26.32)	16.70 (24.12)	16.36 (23.86)	18.56 (25.52)	22.62 (28.40)	15.89 (23.49)
fazim + Thiram	9.63 (18.08)	20.61 (27.00)	22.12 (28.12)	25.99 (30.65)	11.53 (19.85)	23.24 (28.82)	25.97 (30.64)	26.08 (30.71)	17.29 (24.57)	23.24 (28.82)	27.24 (31.46)	30.27 (33.38)	21.58 (27.68)
fazim + Thiram + Chlor- pyrifos	2.46 (9.03)	8.03 (16.46)	11.79 (20.08)	14.94 (22.74)	2.29 (8.71)	8.05 (16.48)	13.58 (21.62)	15.08 (22.85)	7.28 (15.65)	10.54 (18.94)	12.13 (20.38)	18.47 (25.45)	9.76 (18.20)
fazim + Thiram otophos	4.09 (11.67)	9.95 (18.39)	13.84 (21.84)	17.67 (24.86)	5.59 (13.67)	12.06 (20.32)	15.32 (23.04)	14.99 (22.78)	9.93 (18.37)	9.91 (18.35)	11.80 (20.09)	17.45 (24.69)	11.52 (19.84)
fazim + Thiram + Phosalone	5.39 (13.42)	9.72 (18.17)	16.65 (24.08)	21.29 (27.48)	9.89 (18.33)	12.31 (20.54)	16.70 (24.12)	18.16 (25.22)	15.14 (22.90)	13.47 (21.53)	18.93 (24.30)	19.29 (26.05)	14.25 (22.18)

	5.82	12.90	20.64	24.56	9.15	13.84	21.18	21.55	15.93	20.54	23.92	26.84	17.54
	(13.96)	(21.05)	(27.02)	(29.71)	(17.61)	(21.84)	(27.40)	(27.66)	(23.52)	(26.95)	(29.28)	(31.10)	(24.76)
	0.00	7.51	13.27	16.12	2.45	9.53	12.75	16.43	5.59	15.14	19.07	22.13	10.54
	(4.05)	(15.90)	(21.36)	(23.67)	(9.00)	(17.98)	(20.92)	(23.91)	(13.67)	(22.90)	(25.89)	(28.06)	(18.94)
chlorpyrifos	2.46	4.13	12.29	13.59	2.46	5.90	11.43	14.71	5.39	7.49	9.46	13.30	7.97
	(9.03)	(11.72)	(20.52)	(21.63)	(9.03)	(14.06)	(19.76)	(22.55)	(13.42)	(15.88)	(17.91)	(21.39)	(16.40)
monocrotophos	5.59	11.54	21.02	25.30	9.63	18.10	22.61	26.05	13.01	22.17	27.24	27.60	18.51
	(13.67)	(19.86)	(27.29)	(30.20)	(18.08)	(25.18)	(28.39)	(30.69)	(21.24)	(28.09)	(31.46)	(31.69)	(25.48)
thosalone	0.00	4.00	8.74	10.25	0.00	4.37	9.19	10.88	5.82	8.10	9.53	14.35	6.28
	(4.05)	(11.54)	(17.20)	(18.67)	(4.05)	(12.07)	(17.65)	(19.26)	(13.96)	(16.54)	(17.98)	(22.26)	(14.59)
phos	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.24	2.46	0.00	0.00	4.24	10.19	5.59	6.40	8.22	2.83
	(4.05)	(4.05)	(4.05)	(11.88)	(9.03)	(4.05)	(4.05)	(11.58)	(18.62)	(13.67)	(14.65)	(16.66)	(9.69)
	8.19	16.60	17.82	20.28	4.97	18.96	21.85	25.06	15.93	24.29	29.23	32.23	18.90
	(16.63)	(24.04)	(24.97)	(26.62)	(12.88)	(25.81)	(27.87)	(30.04)	(23.52)	(29.53)	(32.73)	(34.59)	(25.77)
	19.87	31.67	41.40	43.96	21.85	33.03	40.67	46.32	21.04	31.51	33.69	42.20	33.67
	(26.47)	(34.25)	(40.05)	(41.53)	(27.87)	(35.08)	(39.62)	(42.89)	(27.30)	(34.15)	(35.63)	(40.51)	(35.44)
Mean	4.92	10.29	15.68	19.15	6.79	12.24	16.69	19.30	12.32	15.24	18.56	22.58	
	(12.82)	(18.71)	(23.33)	(25.95)	(15.10)	(20.48)	(24.11)	(26.06)	(20.55)	(22.98)	(25.52)	(28.37)	

(Figures in parentheses represent transformed values)

seeds were treated with the fungicides as dry seed dressing. In the case of treatments involving insecticides, gum was dissolved at the rate of 0.125 g in 5 ml of water per kg of seed to which the insecticides were added. This solution was poured slowly while stirring the seeds for pelletisation. The treated seeds were shade dried for one day. In the combination of seed treatment with fungicides and insecticides, the seeds were treated first with fungicides and 2 hours later with insecticides. One lot of seed was left untreated to serve as control. The seeds were stored in cloth bags for four months at laboratory conditions ($30 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$) and relative humidity varying from 60 to 90 per cent. The efficacy of seed dressing chemicals

on the incidence of *A. approximata* assessed under pot culture conditions by sowing the seeds immediately day after seed treatment and subsequently two and four months in storage. Pots were filled up with soil mixture of uniform composition. The treated seeds were raised direct sowing. Suitable control was maintained by sowing seeds with any chemical treatment. Each treatment was replicated thrice. Each containing ten plants was considered as a replication. Observations on dead heart symptoms were recorded on 14, 21, and 28 days after sowing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data revealed that all the three insecticidal seed treatments were si-

Table 2. Interaction between insecticides and periods on the occurrence of dead hearts due to shoot fly *A. approximata* in per cent

Insecticide	Period after seed treatment in months						Mean	
	0		2		4			
Chlorpyrifos	7.70	(16.11)	8.97	(17.43)	13.24	(21.34)	9.85	(18.2)
Monocrotophos	6.71	(15.01)	7.68	(16.09)	10.22	(18.64)	8.14	(16.5)
Phosalone	14.89	(22.10)	16.19	(23.73)	20.40	(26.85)	16.84	(24)
Control	21.44	(27.58)	22.77	(28.50)	25.90	(30.59)	23.34	(28.0)
Mean	11.92	(20.20)	13.36	(21.44)	17.00	(24.35)		

(Figures in parentheses represent transformed values)

Comparison of significant effects

	S. E.	C. D. (P=0.05)
Periods	0.28	0.78
Insecticides	0.22	

nificantly superior to the control in registering less dead heart incidence due to shootfly. The fungicides were ineffective in reducing deadhearts caused by shootfly (Table 1). Among the insecticides, lowest infestation of shootfly was noticed in monocrotophos followed by chlorpyrifos and phosalone ranging from 8.14 to 16.84 per cent as against 23.34 per cent in control (Table 2).

Among the pesticides tested for seed treatment, monocrotophos followed by chlorpyrifos and phosalone were effective in reducing the shootfly infestation (Table 2). Thobbi and Mohan (1971) observed that the combined application of carbofuran and thiram to the sorghum seeds was effective against shootfly in sorghum. Natarajan and Chelliah (1981) found

that seed pelleting with monocrotophos before sowing had reduced dead hearts due to shootfly in sorghum. Sukhani and Jotwani (1982) have reported the efficacy of seed treatment with monocrotophos and chlorpyrifos in the control of shootfly, *Atherigo soccata* on sorghum while Rangaraj *et al.* (1985) have recommended phosalone in addition to the above two insecticides. Monocrotophos even though had significant effect in containing the shootfly incidence, it has hampered the viability of pearl millet seeds. The other two test insecticides *viz.*, chlorpyrifos and phosalone also have recorded reduced germination indicating that insecticidal seed treatment hampered the seed viability over a storage period of four months (Dakshinamoorthy, 1987).

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