

# PESTICIDAL EFFECT OF *FICUS BENGALENSIS* LATEX ON SOME LARVAE OF CROP DAMAGING PESTS

Dharmendra Kumar Patel<sup>1</sup>. and Dr. Devendra N. Pandey<sup>2</sup>  
Research Scholar School of Environmental Biology A.P.S. University Rewa (M.P.)  
Prof. Govt. S.K.N. P.G. College Mauganj Rewa (M.P.)

**ABSTRACT:-** The relationship between life and disease the plant is older as the history of mankind itself, plant play vital role for the existence of the life in the universe. It is evident that human being started using plant part from the very beginning and found that majority of plants was suitable as foods as well as various needs of life. But present scenario need extensive research for search of novel herbal pesticides which can replace older plant product and the synthetic products and which can increase the possibility to vanish the hunger from the earth. Presently our country is passing through agriculture revolution or green revolution. Such the plants are not important only for medicinal use, but they are also important in the prevention of dangerous insects, pests, fungus and other harmful biotics for crops, vegetables, other stored food materials and animals.

The present study is based on the pesticidal effects of *Ficus bengalensis*, latex and its effect on some agricultural larvae of pest *Mythimna separata* which are harmful to the crops. The different diluted concentrations were spread over pest larvae for 12 hrs, 24 hrs and 48 hrs. The above cited concentration of *Ficus bengalensis*, were spread over the larvae of pests *Mythimna separata*. Ten individual of each larvae of pests were kept in each petri dishes with triplicates against the control. *Ficus bengalensis* the pest mortality was recorded 0% at 0% concentration (control) of plant latex, after 12 hrs, 24 hrs and 48 hrs. at 25% conc. The pest mortality was recorded 23.25%, after 12 hrs, 25.24% after 24 hrs and 28.24% after 48hrs. At 50% conc. It was 33.82% after 12 hrs, 30.51% after 24 hrs and 32.42% after 48hrs. In case of 75% conc. Of plant extract it was 45.28% after 12 hrs, 46.82% after 24 hrs and 48.12% after 48 hrs. Where in case of 100% conc. of plant latex mortality was recorded 61.82% after 12 hrs, 70.83% after 24 hrs and 68.43% after 48 hrs.

**KEYWORDS:-** Pesticidal effects, Agricultural pest Larvae, Plant Latex, Mortality rates.

## INTRODUCTION:-

India basically depends upon agriculture for their economical needs, as more than 80% of Indian population depends on agriculture. Indian economy is

largely determined by agricultural productivity. Insect pest are known to cause significant damage to crops and affect agricultural productivity. The monetary loss due to feeding by larvae and adult insects alone contributes to billion dollars per annum (Jacobson, (1982). Actually biological factors leads to losses of about 35% of world's harvest. This figure includes 14% due to harmful animals and insects/pest, 12% due to disease and 9% due to weeds.

Significant losses in grain, both quantitative and qualitative occur during storage. The factors of losses may be biological (Insects, rodents, birds etc.) or physical (temperature, relative humidity, grain moisture, storage structure etc.).

Insects often cause extensive damage to stored grains and grain products, amounting to 5-10% loss in temperate regions and 20-30% in the tropical regions (Nakakita, 1998). In India, postharvest losses caused exclusively by insect pests is 12% (Mohan, 2003). At present pest control measures in storage rely heavily on the use of synthetic insecticides and fumigants. Their indiscriminate use in storage, however, has sometimes led to a number of problems including toxic residues in food grains (Fishwick, 1988) and environmental pollution (Wright *et al.*, 1993). These problems together with the development of insect resistance have made the problem much more complicated. The use of insecticides of natural origin are therefore an important development in storage pest control as they have short residual action, low mammalian toxicity and reduced environmental pollution.

The pest management has become an important phenomenon in human life. Agriculture is the most important sector in the Indian economy, contributing about 35.4% income of total national income. Agriculture in tropical country like India, owing to its climatic condition and its particular environment, suffers serve losses due to pests. Man always fought against pests. At some ancient, unrecorded time they realize that swatting stamping or running were effective ways of dealing with these crawling and flying pests, who jeopardized their health, food and comfort. For centuries

human has used natural insecticide to combat insects/pests. Some of these compounds were extracted from plants and others were mined from the earth. Grainge and Ahmed, 1988 reported more than 2400 plant species possessing pest control properties. Some traditional used promising plants in India subcontinent are Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*). It is only in the last two decades that pest control potential of some promising plants was unveiled. Effects of these plants as repellent, anti-feedant, position deterrent, growth regulator and chemo-sterillant as alternative considerations are far more desirable than a quick knock-down effect on insects in an IPM Program.

#### **Aims and objectives of the study**

To prevent above cited harmful effect of chemical pesticides it become essential to search the alternate natural pesticides which may not be toxic for animals, human beings or agricultural crops. Therefore some plant extract containing plants are chosen to observe their pesticidal effects on some agricultural pests in our present study.

#### **Plan of work**

The following aspect have been studied in the present investigation.

1. Several plant parts taken for the study have been extracted by the method described by Annapurna (1989).
2. Efficacy of some of these latex also tested against some pests of some common crops.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS:-**

All type of research work depends upon the tools and material and methods, which are the most important part of the study. During our research work following methods and tools has been used.

#### **Selection of plants for study:-**

The selection of plants for our research purpose we have discussed with local villagers especially with tribals, some Aurvedic vaidya and other peoples. A *Ficus bengalensis* plant has been selected due to their various important characters, such as availability and ethnobotanical impotence.

#### **Identification of plants:-**

Identification of selected plants conducted according to instruction of modern taxonomy. *Ficus bengalensis* is large tree which is found at every part of India. Formers of our country in north India used it for the formation of fence around their crop lands, house and gardens.

#### **Classification of Banyan**

Kingdom	-	Plantae
Subkingdom	-	Tracheobionta
Super-division	-	Spermatophyta
Division	-	Magnoliophyta
Class	-	Magnoliopsida
Subclass	-	Hamamelididae
Order	-	Urticales
Family	-	Moraceae
Genus	-	<i>Ficus</i>
Species	-	<i>bengalensis</i>
Hindi Name	-	Bargad

#### **Preparation of plant latex:-**

In the present investigation the latex was prepared with organic solvent ethanol (Annapurna 1989). The air dried plant materials have been powdered mechanically. The dry powder (100 gm.) was extracted thoroughly with dry ethanol and kept aside overnight to settle the main pigment at the bottom leaving brown liquid. The extract was kept in vacuum desiccators for dryness the ethanol was evaporated completely to dryness under vacuum leaving brown powder, which re-dissolved in ethanol. This latex was then used for further investigations.

#### **1. Collection of pests and their identification :-**

During the present study one agricultural pest larvae *Mythimna separate* Army worm have been selected, collected and identified of pest was done with the help of Entomology department Agricultural College Rewa.

#### **Classification Army Worm**

Order	-	Lepidoptera
Family	-	Noctuidea
Genus	-	<i>Mythimna</i>
Species	-	<i>separate</i>
Local name-	-	Army worm (Sainnik Keet)

#### **Preparation of dilutions of collected plant latex:-**

The dilutions of latex have been prepared by adding the distilled water. 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of dilutions have been made by the mixing of distilled water in following manner-

- (1) 0 ml. (control) no extracts have been added there is only distilled water.
- (2) 25 ml. of extracts and 75 ml. of distilled water used as 25%.
- (3) 50 ml. of extracts and 50 ml. of distilled water used as 50%
- (4) 75 ml. of extracts and 25 ml. of distilled water used as 75%
- (5) 100 ml. of extracts and 0 ml. of distilled water used as 100%

The various concentrations of diluted latex have been spread over the collected pest larvae. In the glass petrydishes counted numbers of ten pest larvae have been kept in the triplicate to get proper results, with a control.

**Observation:-**

The different type of plant solution has sprayed on pest larvae of crop and observation of motility has been recorded. The experiment replicated during three different duration 12 hrs, 24 hrs and 48 hrs in data sheet.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:-**

**1- Mortality of *Mythimna separata* larvae with plant latex (Banyan):-**

In the case of *Mythimna separata* Army worm mortality recorded were 32.95% (Table No.1).

**Table No. (1) - Mortality of *Mythimna separata* with *Ficus* plant latex.**

Plant Name	Mortality Mean Value (in %)
<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	32.95%

**2- Mortality (Mean value in %) of *Mythimna separata* larvae in relation to different concentration-**

The mortality recorded at different concentration of plant extract were as at 0% concentration (Control) mortality was 0%, at 2% extract conc. It was 22.92 %, at 50% conc. It was 32.43 %, at 75% conc. Mortality was 56.72% and at 100% latex con. 59.66% mortality has been recorded.

The highest average pest mortality was recorded 59.66% in case of 100% extracts conc. and lowest at 0% Conc. It was 0% Table no. 2).

**Table no. 2 -Mortality (Mean value in %) of *Mythimna separata* larvae in different concentration of plant latex.**

Concentration	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Mean Mortality	0	22.92	32.43	56.72	59.66

**3- Mortality (Mean value in %) of larvae *Mythimna separata* at different duration:-**

The mortality in relation to different duration were recorded as 33.12% after 12 hrs time span. 34.32% after

24hrs and 37.56% after 48 hrs. The highest average pest mortality percentage has been recorded after 48 hrs as it was 37.56% and lowest 33.12% after 12 hrs time span (Table No. 3).

**Table No. 3 - Mortality (Mean value in %) of *Mythimna separata* larvae at different duration.**

Serial No.	Duration (In hrs)	Pest mortality (In %)
1.	12	33.12
2.	24	34.32
3.	48	37.56

**4- Effect of different concentration of plant latex *Ficus bengalensis* on larvae of *Mythimna separata*.**

Where the treatment combination were concerned with plant species latex and their different concentrations, the 0% mortality obtained at 0% concentration (control), at 25% conc. of plant extract conc. mortality 24.82%, at 50% extract conc. It was 32.53%, at 75% extract conc. It was 58.22% and at 100% plant extract conc. mortality was recorded 62.56%.

**Table No. 4. Effect of different concentration of plant latex *Ficus bengalensis* on larvae of *Mythimna separate***

Concentration	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	0	24.82	32.53	58.22	62.56

**5- Effect of *Ficus bengalensis* plant latex on *Mythimna separata* larvae at different duration.**

In the case of plant species *Ficus bengalensis* pest mortality were recorded 32.39 after 12 hrs, it was 35.56% after 24 hrs and it was 36.20% after 48 hrs.(Table no.5).

**Table No. 5 - Effect of plant species *Ficus bengalensis* latex on *Mythimna separata* larvae at different duration.**

Plant species	12 Hours	24 Hours	48 Hours
<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	32.39	35.56	36.20

**6- The effect of plant species *Ficus bengalensis* latex and their different concentration at different duration on *Mythimna separata* larvae mortality:-**

In the case of *Ficus bengalensis* the pest mortality was recorded 0% at 0% concentration(control) of plant latex, after 12 hrs, 24 hrs and 48 hrs. at 25% conc. The pest

mortality was recorded 23.25%, after 12 hrs, 25.24% after 24 hrs and 28.24% after 48hrs. At 50% conc. It was 33.82 % after 12 hrs, 30.51% after 24 hrs and 32.42% after 48hrs. In case of 75% conc. Of plant extract it was 45.28% after 12 hrs, 46.82% after 24 hrs and 48.12% after 48 hrs. Where in case of 100% conc. of plant latex mortality was recorded 61.82% after 12 hrs, 70.83% after 24 hrs and 68.43% after 48 hrs.

The highest average mortality obtained 70.83% at 100% conc. of plant latex after 24 hrs time span and lowest was 0% in case of all duration.

**Table No. 6-** The effect of plant latex of *Ficus bengalensis* and their different concentration at different duration on *Mythimna separata* larvae mortality.

Plant species	Concentration (%)	Duration 12hrs	Duration 24hrs	Duration 48hrs
<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	25%	23.25	25.24	28.24
	50%	33.82	30.51	32.42
	75%	45.28	46.82	48.12
	100%	61.82	70.83	68.43

**DISCUSSION:-**

Agriculture in India has been long history dating back to ten thousand years. Today, India rank second worldwide in farm output and about 70% of Indian are directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. Several pressures have accelerated the search for more environmentally and toxicologically safe and more selective and efficacious pesticides. Most commercially successful pesticides have been discovered by screening compounds synthesized in the laboratory for pesticidal properties. The average number of compounds that must be screened to discover a commercially viable pesticide has increased dramatically, so that new discovery strategies must be considered. Increased emphasis on reduced-tillage agriculture will make adequate control of weeds more dependent on chemical control. New herbicides will be needed to fully meet this challenge. The increasing incidence of pesticides resistance is also fueling the need for new pesticides. Furthermore, most synthetic chemicals that have been commercialized as herbicides are halogenated hydrocarbon with relatively long environmental half-lives and more suspect toxicological properties than most natural compounds. Thus, natural compounds have increasingly become the focus of those interested in discovery of pesticides.

Natural products, mainly plants and their derivatives are gaining importance in the recent past for use against noxious insect pests due to reason not only the resistance

against conventional synthetic insecticides but also problems like environmental pollution, toxicity, bioaccumulation & biomagnifications especially through different trophic levels in the ecosystem. Some plants and their products have insecticidal, larvicidal and insect growth regulatory effects which are introduced in the pest control strategy (Jamil et. Al. 1988, Chiranjivi & Shudhakar 1996, Omotoso 2004, Sharma et. al. 2008).

**CONCLUSION:-**

Plants have been serving the humanity for centuries by providing a good source of medicines. *Ficus bengalensis* L. is one of the most important plants of traditional medicines and biopesticides. The relationship between life and disease the plant is older as the history of mankind itself, plant play vital role for existences of life in the universe. It is evident that human being started using plant part from the very beginning and found that majority of plants was suitable as food as well as various needs of life. But present scenario need extensive research for search of novel herbal pesticides which can replace older plant product and the synthetic products and which can increase the possibility to vanish the hunger from the earth. Botanical pesticides are good alternative to chemical pesticides, because botanical pesticides are ecofriendly, economic, target specific and biodegradable. The use of botanicals in pest management is not only useful for suspension of pest population but will be also helpful to maintain the sound ecological balance, which will help mankind to cope with the threat to Global warming. To prevent above cited harmful effect of chemical pesticides it become essential to search the alternate natural pesticides which may not be toxic for animals, human beings or agricultural crops. Therefore some latex containing plants are chosen to observe their pesticidal effects on some agricultural pests in our present study. In this context we have found above cited results in our study.

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