

Population dynamics and management of pumpkin beetle *Aulacophora foveicollis* Lucas in bottle gourd

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Phagwara, Punjab 144411****Corresponding Email: sgharde@rediffmail.com,****Abstract**

*Bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) is one of the most important tropic vegetable crop grown world wide belongs to family cucurbiceae prone to wide range of insect and non insect pests includes pumpkin beetle, fruit fly, striped cucurbit beetle, twelve spotted cucumber beetles, spider mites, melon aphids, squash borer, squash bug and leaf minors etc. Population build-up of *A. foveicollis* Lucas on calabash were studied at Instructional farm, School of Agriculture, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Jalandhar (Punjab). During the investigation it was observed that red pumpkin beetle start infesting the crop from 8th SW with mean population 0.40 and it reach at peak level during 15th SW with mean population of 6.22. During the study of application of different chemicals against *A. foveicollis*, the result revealed that Thiamethoxam 25% WG @ 4g/lit) is the best one among all the treatments and reduced the population of *A. foveicollis* up to 90% followed by Treatment T1 (*Lambda Cyhalothrin* 4.9% CS@1ml/lit).*

Keywords: *Bottle gourd, Red pumpkin beetle, Population dynamics, Insecticides, management.*

Introduction

Cucurbits crops are well known as vegetable food and medicine from prehistoric era. Bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) is one of the tropic vegetable crop (Purseglove, 1974) which belongs to family cucurbitaceae and genus *Legenaria*. The bottle gourd are oldest cultivated climbing plants which bears hard-shelled and bottle shaped fruit gourd which grown in most often in warm season and grows up 7i37 inches long with diameter of 4-12 inches. It is also called white flower gourd. Bottle gourd known by various names in different countries like lauki in India, labu (Indonesia), hyotan, yugao (Japan), labuayer (Malaysia), upo (Philippines), diya labu (Sri Lanka), buap khaus, nam tao (Thailand), and bau (Vietnam). The young fruit are edible and cooked as vegetable. It is useful for management of many diseases like hepatic disease, ulcer

and cardiac disorders. The fresh juice of bottle gourd helps in losing weight quickly, because of low fat and high dietary fibers.

Bottle gourd has good nutritional value and many benefits. It is rich source of vitamins, minerals as well as many medicinal values viz. aphrodisiac, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, cardio-tonic, hepatoprotective, analgesic and antioxidant agents (Mohan *et al.*, 2012). The edible portion has a good source of ascorbic acid, beta carotene, minerals, amino acid and vitamins. The juice of bottle gourd is helpful in urinary disorders, constipation, premature graying hair and insomnia and helpful to regulate blood pressure of hypertensive patients. It contains beta glycosidase-elastase enzyme, vitamin B and vitamin C complex and low calories (Parle and Kaur., 2011). The regular consumption of bottle gourd juice provides good benefit to people suffering with convalescent, diabetics, digestive problems and liver disease (Ghule *et al.*, 2007). But on the other hand crop is attacked by a wide range of insect pests includes *B. cucurbitae*, *A. foveicollis*, Aphid (*Aphis gossypii* and *Myzus persicae*) and root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) among these *A. foveicollis* is one of the major pest which significantly causes 100% losses. Its attack starts during the seedling stage up to still harvesting stage (Rashid *et al.*, 2014).

Materials and methods:

The population dynamics of red pumpkin beetle were studied at Instructional farm, School of Agriculture, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Jalandhar (Punjab) during 2018. The population build up was recorded at weekly basis on randomly selected plants by counting number of adult beetle infestation throughout the growing season after appearing the red pumpkin beetle. The incidence of red pumpkin beetle data was recorded before spray and 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 days after spray. The reduction percentage over the control was calculated by using the following formula.

$$\text{Reduction \% over control} = \frac{\text{Untreated plot} - \text{treated plot}}{\text{Untreated plot}}$$

Result and Discussion:

Population dynamics of *A. foveicollis* in bottle gourd.

During the experimental data (Figure-1) revealed that the incidence of *A. foveicollis* on bottle gourd was started from 8th SW with average population of 0.40 beetle/plant and it is continuously

increases up to 14th SW with average population 3.04 beetle/plant. The population reached its peak level during 15th SW with highest population 6.22 beetle/plant. The population of red pumpkin beetle decreases till (17th SW) ranges from 6.22-2.33 beetle/plant.

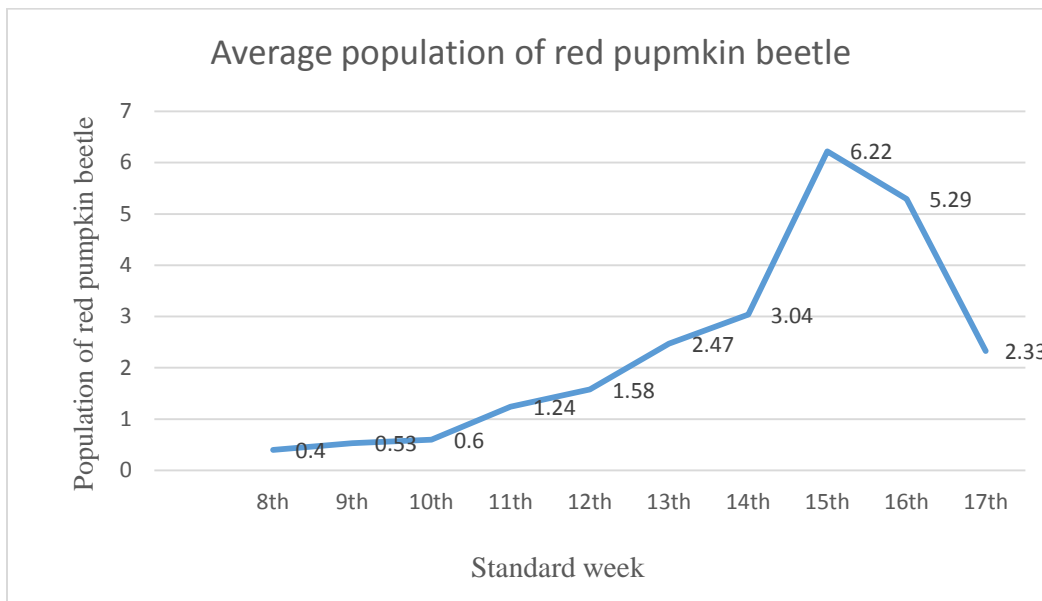


Figure1:Population dynamics of red pumpkin beetle

Evaluation of new generation insecticides against *A. foveicollis* on bottle gourd after first spray

The data revealed that (table-1) the average population of red pumpkin beetle before treatment ranges from 1.2 to 2.0 beetle/plant. The maximum reduction percentage was observed in Thiamethoxam @25WG 2ml/lit treated plot (95.95%) followed by Lambda cyhalothrin @4.9SC 1ml/lit(91.87%) one day after application and the minimum reduction was observed when the plot treated with Imidacloprid @17.8SL 0.25ml/lit (50%).After 3 day of application, the treatments with recommended dose of Thiamethoxam(2ml/lit) and lambda-cyhalothrin (1ml/lit.) recorded most effective resulting in 88.43 and 80.23% reduction of red pumpkin beetle followed by treatment recommended dose of imidacloprid (0.5ml/lit) (70.66%). The lowest reduction was recorded in treatment imidacloprid (0.25ml/lit)which was treated with half dose of imidacloprid. The similar trend was observed in 3, 5, 7 and 10 DAT.

The result obtained after first spraying is similar to the result observed by McLeod *et. al.* (2002)

in egg plant in which they observed that the mortality produced by Thiamethoxam in flea beetle occurred more quickly than that for the other tested materials as shown with LT50 values 1.8, 3.0 and 3.6. They tested three different chemicals viz. spinosad, chlorfenapyr and Thiamethoxam against the flea beetle and they observed that the chemical Thiamethoxam gave the mortality rate of beetle more quickly as compared to the other chemicals. Penaet *al.*, 2011 recorded that the insecticide with contact and systemic (Thiamethoxam + lambda-cyhalothrin) gave the effective control against the red bay ambrosia beetle.

Table 1:Reduction percentage of *A. foveicollis* during first spray

Treatments	Dose	1DBT	1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	7DAT	10DAT
T1-Lambda cyhalothrin @4.9SC	1ml/lit.	1.6	91.02 (75.00)	80.23 (71.42)	71.85 (68.75)	64.07 (64.5)	52.09 (53.84)
T2-Lambda cyhalothrin @4.9SC	0.5ml/lit	1.6	79.37 (55.00)	70.62 (42.85)	58.12 (37.5)	41.87 (36.00)	40.77 (30.76)
T3-Thiamethoxam @25WG	2gm/lit.	1.73	95.95 (85.00)	88.43 (78.57)	72.83 (75.5)	65.31 (72.00)	57.80 (57.69)
T4-Thiamethoxam @25WG	1gm/lit.	2.00	86.54 (65.00)	73.54 (50.00)	63.54 (43.75)	60.00 (40.00)	50.00 (34.61)
T5-Imidacloprid @17.8SL	0.5ml/lit	1.66	88.87 (70.00)	70.66 (64.28)	66.87 (56.25)	58.12 (52.00)	54.37 (46.15)
T6-Imidacloprid @17.8SL	0.25ml/lit	1.2	72.54 (50.00)	63.33 (35.71)	60.83 (31.25)	55.83 (28.00)	39.16 (23.07)
T7- control	.....	1.93	0.73	1.06	1.33	1.66	1.73
SEm (±)		0.33	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.19
C.D.(P=0.05)	.....	0.99	0.37	0.39	0.43	0.48	0.58

Evaluation of new generation insecticides against *A. foveicollis* in bottle gourd after first spray

During second spray data revealed that (Table-2) application of Thiamethoxam with their recommended (2ml/lit) was found effective against red pumpkin beetle and reduced 91.66 per cent population of red pumpkin beetle followed recommended dose of lambda-cyhalothrin(1ml/lit) 88.41 per cent reduction in red pumpkin beetle population which was followed by imidacloprid with recommended dose 81.42 per cent at par the treatment. Half dose of lambda-cyhalothrin (0.5ml/lit) and imidacloprid was found less effective which gave the 79.65

per cent and 71.92 per cent reduction in red pumpkin beetle population. The similar trend was observed in 3, 5 7 and 10 DAT.

The result obtained after second spraying is similar to the result of (Martínez *et al.* 2004) by comparative toxicity of six insecticides on the rhinoceros beetle. They used six different insecticides *viz.* imidacloprid, fipronil, lambda-cyhalothrin and Thiamethoxam. The higher mortality was observed in Thiamethoxam, lambda-cyhalothrin, imidacloprid and fipronil after 74hrs of treatment.

Table 2: Reduction percentage of *A. foveicollis* during Second spray

Treatments	DOSE	1DBT	1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	7DAT	10DAT
T1-Lambda cyhalothrin @4.9SC	1ml/lit.	2.33	88.41 (76.92)	79.82 (64.28)	77.25 (63.54)	68.66 (52.86)	51.50 (37.64)
T2-Lambda cyhalothrin @4.9SC	0.5ml/lit	2.53	79.65 (53.84)	68.37 (46.42)	63.24 (42.70)	52.56 (38.67)	47.43 (20.00)
T3-Thiomethoxam @25WG	2gm/lit.	2.40	91.66 (84.65)	83.33 (78.57)	77.91 (76.04)	75.00 (63.20)	61.25 (43.52)
T4-Thiomethoxam @25WG	1gm/lit.	2.13	81.22 (61.53)	75.11 (57.14)	59.15 (47.91)	53.05 (43.39)	46.94 (23.52)
T5-Imidacloprid @17.8SL	0.5ml/lit	2.53	81.42 (69.23)	79.05 (60.71)	76.28 (59.37)	63.24 (50.00)	50.19 (30.58)
T6-Imidacloprid @17.8SL	0.25ml/lit	2.60	71.92 (46.15)	69.23 (42.85)	56.15 (39.58)	33.46 (31.13)	30.76 (16.47)
T7- control	.....	3.27	0.86	1.86	4.00	7.06	5.66
SEm(±)		0.14	0.13	0.08	0.44	0.57	0.65
C.D.(P=0.05)	.....	0.41	0.38	0.24	1.34	1.74	1.91

Conclusion:

From the above discussion it is concluded that the *A. foveicollis* started infestation on crop from the seedling stage to harvesting stage of bottle gourd. The population builds up from the 8th of standard of week of February with the average of 0.43 beetle/plant. However, one population peak was observed during 15th of standard week with the average 6.22 beetle/plant. The chemical Thiamethoxam gave the effective result followed by Lambda- cyhalothrin during first and second spray. The chemical imidacloprid not reduced much higher population of *A. foveicollis* compare to the Thiamethoxam and Lambda-cyhalothrin.

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