

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.809.227>

Effect of Plant-Mediated Synthesized Silver Nanoparticles on Pulse Beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

silver nanoparticles,
curry leaves, pulse
beetle, soybean,
adult mortality

Article Info

Accepted:

20 August 2019

Available Online:

10 September 2019

The present investigation was aimed to study the effect of plant-mediated synthesized silver nanoparticles using curry leaves on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) to determine adult mortality, seed damage and seed weight loss. The effect of Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) was studied by rearing the insects and preparing bioassay by treating soybean seeds with two concentrations of synthesized and standard Ag NPs (35 and 70 ppm) at 1:0.3 seed to solution ratio. The adult mortality of 100.00% was observed in treatment S₂@ 70 ppm on 7th day after treatment and B₂ @ 70 ppm on 14th day after treatment. The minimum seed damage was recorded in treatment S₂ (38.67%) followed by B₂(42.00%)@ 70 ppm and the minimum seed weight loss was recorded in treatment S₂ (0.78%) followed by B₂ (0.96%) @ 70 ppm on 14th day after treatment.

Introduction

Storage of grains is a part of post-harvest system through which food materials pass from field to consumer. One of the most important and essential issues during storage is the loss in quality and quantity of the grains caused by insects leading to damage and

reduction of their dry weight and nutritional value^[1]. Pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) is one of the most destructive pests of legumes in storage. It is a severe insect of green gram, pea, cowpea, lentil and has been reported aggressive for soybean, sorghum and maize^[2]. Its damage generally starts in matured pods in the ground from

where it is passed to storage space godowns. Both grubs and adults are responsible for causing the harm.

They complete their life cycle in 25-34 days during summer, whereas 40-50 days in winter. They cause 55-60% loss in the weight of the seed and the seeds become unfit for sowing and even for human consumption^[3].

Insect infestation in grains and dry food products is currently controlled by the use of phosphine and methyl bromide, as methyl bromide has been completely phased out all over the world due to its effect on ozone as depletion compound^[4]. The persistent use of chemicals can lead to serious problems associated with human and environmental health^[5].

The carcinogenic potential of the chemical pesticides and its toxic residues on food after application, besides insect's continuous resistance to pesticides are some of the basic problems of this approach.

As a result of this, there is an urgent need to find an alternative for the purpose of insect management that are eco-friendly, safer and economically viable.

Nanotechnology is one of the most novel new approaches for pest management in recent years particularly nanoparticles.

Ag NPs may be an alternative to control growth of insects and pests during storage^[6], as they are proved to have potential antibacterial, antifungal and larvicidal properties^[7].

Thus, the aim of the present study was to study the effect of biologically synthesized Ag NPs on storage insects in comparison with standard Ag NPs

Materials and Methods

Biological synthesis of Ag NPs using curry leaves

The biological synthesis of Ag NPs using curry leaves, *Murraya koenigii* (L.) was carried as per the following procedure.

Ten grams of fresh curry leaves were weighed in an electronic balance were thoroughly rinsed with distilled water and chopped into small pieces using stainless steel knife. The chopped leaves were boiled in 75 mL of distilled water for 10 min at 60°C using water bath. The leaf extract was cooled to room temperature (25°C) and filtered using Whatman filter paper No.1 yielding 50 mL of leaf broth and it was stored in a refrigerator at 8±1°C for further study.

Five mL of prepared leaf broth was added to 100 mL of 1.50 mM AgNO₃ solution (1.5mM was prepared by dissolving 0.0253 g of AgNO₃ in 100 mL of distilled water). The mixture was incubated at 105°C using rectangular hot plate until colour changed from transparent yellow to dark brown indicating the formation of Ag NPs. The pH 9 of synthesized Ag NPs was adjusted using pH meter and stored in a refrigerator (8±1°C) for further study[8].

Effect of Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) in soybean seeds

The effect of Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) was studied by rearing the insects and preparing bioassay by treating soybean seeds with two concentrations of synthesized and standard Ag NPs (35 and 70 ppm). The detailed procedure followed in carrying out this experiment is presented below.

Maintenance of pulse beetle culture

The infested soybean with pulse beetles were procured from Seed Unit, UAS, Raichur and the culture was maintained in a plastic container (size) separately. Initially one kilogram of disinfested soybean seeds were used and adults of *C. chinensis* were released from the infested lot. The plastic containers for maintaining culture were covered with the muslin cloth and fastened with the rubber band. Likewise, the culture was established and continued till they complete two generations. The experiment was conducted at Centre for Nanotechnology, UAS Raichur, maintained at $30\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and $75\pm 5\%$ relative humidity in continuous dark condition^[1].

Bioassay

The bioassay of pulse beetle was performed with soybean seeds with two different concentrations of Ag NPs in plastic screw capped jars (size 6.00×6.50 cm). Fifty grams of fresh soybean seeds, which were free from infestation were weighed using electronic balance and kept in hot air oven for 2 h at $50\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ to sterilize and make the sample free from field infestation. Sterilized seeds were primed with both synthesized and standard Ag NPs at 1:0.3 seed to solution ratio with two concentrations (35 and 70 ppm). Treated seeds were placed in jars and kept for 24 h, then 5 pairs of newly emerged adults were transferred to each box. The experiment was replicated thrice and the untreated seeds were taken as control^[9].

Adult mortality

In each treatment, the number of insects taken was 10. The number of insects dead from each sample was counted manually and the mean of three replications were taken to calculate the adult mortality^[10]. Insect mortality was checked after 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 14th day^[11].

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Adult mortality (\%)} \\ &= \frac{\text{Number of dead insects}}{\text{Total number of insects}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Seed damage

Here, the treated seeds from each treatment (50 g) were taken and the number of seeds damaged by the insects after 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 14th day were counted^[12]. The mean of three replications were taken to calculate the seed damage (%) for each treatment.

$$\text{Seed damage (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of damaged seeds}}{\text{Total number of seeds}} \times 100$$

Seed weight loss

The weight of each sample was measured using an electronic balance and replicated thrice. The mean of replications was taken to determine the seed weight loss from each treatment^[13].

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Seed weight loss (\%)} \\ &= \frac{\text{Original weight (g)} - \text{Final weight (g)}}{\text{Original weight (g)}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Results and Discussion

Biological synthesis of Ag NPs using curry leaves

Synthesis of Ag NPs using curry leaves is a green approach and is extensively studied. For this, curry leaf extract was added to AgNO_3 solution and a visible colour change from transparent yellow to dark brown was observed, which indicated the formation of Ag NPs.

This might be due to the reduction of silver ions in the solution by the presence of terpenoids^[14]. The colour changed from colourless to yellowish and then to dark brown for curry leaves^[8,15,16].

Effect of Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) in soybean seeds

The effect of synthesized and standard Ag NPs at two different concentrations against pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) by considering different entomological parameters such as adult mortality, seed damage and seed weight loss. The results are presented in the following sections and discussed.

Adult mortality (%)

1st day after treatment

It is evident from Table 1 that, the adult mortality of pulse beetle on day one after treatment recorded a maximum of 6.67% for S₂ @ 70 ppm which is statistically on par with B₂ (3.33%). No adult mortality was recorded in the treatments B₁, S₁ @ 35 ppm and control. It is observed that @ 70 ppm concentration, all the treatments recorded higher adult mortality compared to 35 ppm of synthesized and standard Ag NPs.

3rd day after treatment

The maximum adult mortality of 63.33% was observed in treatment S₂@ 70 ppm which was statistically on par with B₂ (50.00%) @ 70 ppm and S₁ (50.00%) @ 35 ppm. The treatments B₁ (26.67%) @ 35 ppm recorded minimum mortality. However, there was no mortality in control (0.00%).

5th day after treatment

It is observed from Table 1 that, the mortality of pulse beetle on 5th day after treatment recorded a maximum of 83.33% for S₂ @ 70 ppm, which was followed by B₂, S₁ and B₁ as 73.33, 70.00 and 53.33, respectively. However, there was no mortality in control (0.00%).

7th day after treatment

After seven days of treatment the mortality of pulse beetle varied from 76.67 to 100.00% (Table 1). The highest mortality was recorded by standard Ag NPs @ 70 ppm (100.00%). However, other treatments recorded mortality of 86.67 (B₂), 83.33 (S₁) and 76.67 (B₁). However, there was no mortality in control (0.00%).

It is also observed that @ 70 ppm of Ag NPs, all the treatments recorded higher adult mortality compared to 35 ppm concentration in synthesized and standard Ag NPs.

14th day after treatment

The effect of synthesized and standard Ag NPs on adult mortality of pulse beetle on 14th day after treatment is shown in Table 1. The maximum mortality (100.00%) was observed in treatments S₂ @ 70 ppm which was statistically on par with all other treatments B₂ (100.00%)@ 70 ppm and S₁ (96.67%), B₁ (93.33%) @ 35 ppm. However, all the treatments are superior to control (13.33%).

From the results, it is observed that, with increase in concentrations and number of days after treatment, the adult mortality also increased. Biologically synthesized Ag NPs showed similar effect on adult mortality as standard Ag NPs @ 70 ppm.

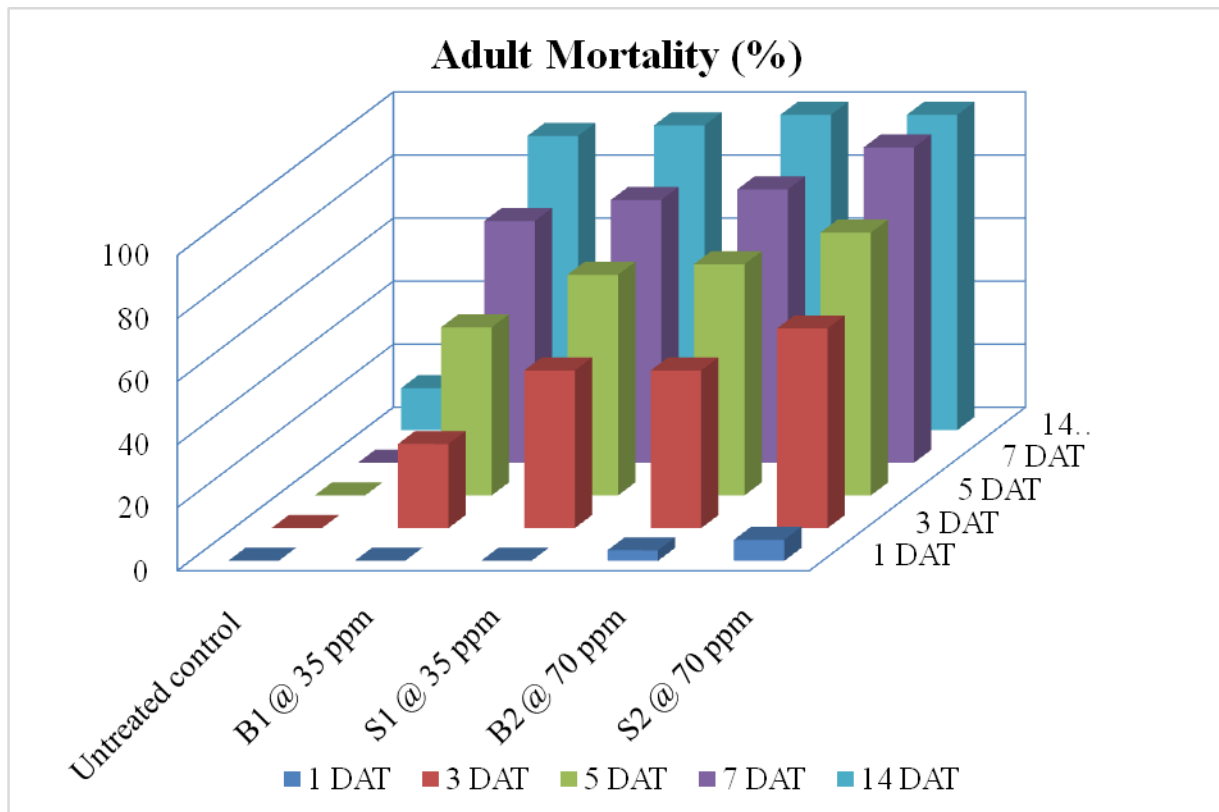
Similar results were observed that, the Ag NPs @ 50 ppm showed mortality of 100.00% on 14th day for adult of *Sitophilus oryzae*^[11]. The Ag NPs @ 50 ppm showed 100.00% mortality on 4th day after treatment imposition on *Sitophilus oryzae*^[9]. ZnO NPs @ 1250 ppm recorded mortality of 96.66% on pulse beetle 10 days after treatment^[17]. This might be due to ingestion of seed treated with nanoparticles which might have caused abrasion of midgut leading to death of adults^[18].

Table.1 Effect of Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* in soybean

Treatment details	Adult mortality(%) at different days of observation*					Seed damage (%)	Weight loss (%)
	1DAT	3 DAT	5 DAT	7 DAT	14 DAT	14 DAT	14 DAT
Untreated control	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	13.33 (21.13)	72.67 (58.54)	2.21 (8.54)
B ₁ @ 35 ppm	0 (0.00)	26.67 (30.98)	53.33 (46.90)	76.67 (61.19)	93.33 (77.69)	56.67 (50.00)	1.14 (6.10)
S ₁ @ 35 ppm	0 (0.00)	50 (44.98)	70 (56.76)	83.33 (66.11)	96.67 (83.84)	49.33 (44.59)	1.06 (5.91)
B ₂ @ 70 ppm	3.33 (6.14)	50 (44.89)	73.33 (58.98)	86.67 (68.82)	100 (90)	42 (40.37)	0.96 (5.61)
S ₂ @ 70 ppm	6.67 (12.28)	63.33 (52.75)	83.33 (66.11)	100 (90)	100 (90)	38.67 (38.42)	0.78 (5.07)
Mean	2	38	55.99	69.33	80.66	51.86	1.23
SEm (±)	2.10	5.57	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.93	0.09
C. D. @ 1%	6.42	17.83	8.24	8.24	8.24	9.37	0.30

Note: DAT- Days After Treatment *Average of 5 pairs
 Figures in the parentheses are angular transformed values

Fig. 1 Effect of Ag NPs on adult mortality (%) of pulse beetle in soybean



Seed damage (%)

The effect of different treatments on seed damage was recorded on 14th day after treatment. Among all the treatments, the minimum seed damage was recorded in treatment S₂ (38.67%) @ 70 ppm and maximum seed damage was observed in B₁ (56.67%) @ 35 ppm. Treatment S₂ @ 70 ppm was statistically on par with the treatments B₂ (42.00%) @ 70 ppm and all the treatments are superior to control (72.67%). It is also observed that Ag NPs @ 70 ppm of all the synthesis methods showed lower seed damage as compared to Ag NPs @ 35 ppm and control (Table 1).

Application of synthesized and standard Ag NPs resulted in reduced seed damage potential in all the treatments over control. It is observed that biologically synthesized Ag NPs showed similar effect on reduction of seed damage as standard Ag NPs @ 70 ppm. The per cent seed damage was reduced (4%) for wheat grain using Ag NPs (200 ppm) treatment over control^[19]. ZnO NPs @ 1000 ppm reduced the seed damage by 75% over the control^[17]. The reduction in seed damage by the infestation of pulse beetle *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) treated with silica nanoparticles^[18]. There was inverse relationship between adult mortality (%) and seed damage (%).

Seed weight loss (%)

From Table 1 it is observed that, the treatment S₂@ 70 ppm was found to have minimum seed weight loss (0.78%) and the maximum seed weight loss was observed in B₁ (1.14%) @ 35 ppm. Treatment S₂ @ 70 ppm was statistically on par with B₂ (0.96%) and S₁ (1.06%). All the treatments are superior to control (2.21%).

Reduced seed weight loss was observed due to

application of Ag NPs at two different concentrations compared to control. For silica nanoparticles at 1000 ppm in pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.)^[18]. The reason for reduction in seed weight loss (%) and seed damage (%) might be due to early mortality of pulse beetles.

Biological synthesis of Ag NPs was carried out by using curry leaves, *Murraya koenigii* (L.) as reducing agent. Formation of Ag NPs was confirmed by the colour change from transparent yellow to dark brown. The effect of synthesized and standard Ag NPs on pulse beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) in soybean seed by priming method @ (1.00:0.30 seed to solution ratio) by considering different entomological parameters. The adult mortality of 100.00% was observed in treatment S₂ @ 70 ppm on 7th day after treatment and B₂ @ 70 ppm on 14th day after treatment. The minimum seed damage was recorded in treatment S₂ (38.67%) followed by B₂(42.00%)@ 70 ppm and the minimum seed weight loss was recorded in treatment S₂ (0.78%) followed by B₂ (0.96%) @ 70 ppm on 14th day after treatment. Hence, it was found that biologically synthesized Ag NPs showed better entomological parameters @ 70 ppm and recorded almost similar results as standard Ag NPs @ 70 ppm.

Acknowledgement

The authors gratefully acknowledge the Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Govt. of India.

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How to cite this article:

Prem Santhi Yerragopu, Sharanagouda Hiregoudar, Udaykumar Nidoni, K. T. Ramappa, A. G. Sreenivas and Doddagoudar, S. R. 2019. Effect of Plant-Mediated Synthesized Silver Nanoparticles on Pulse Beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.). *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 8(09): 1965-1972. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.809.227>