

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.903.245>

Evaluations of Insecticides against Cashew Stem and Root Borer, *Neoplocaederus ferrugineus* (L.)

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A B S T R A C T

Keywords

Evaluation,
Insecticides,
cashew, CSRB,
Neoplocaederus ferrugineus (L.)

Article Info

Accepted:
15 February 2020
Available Online:
10 March 2020

Field studies were carried out during 2019-20 at Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Ullal, Karnataka, India to evaluate the different insecticides against Cashew Stem and Root Borer (CSRB), *Neoplocaederus ferrugineus* (L.). Among the different insecticides evaluated, significantly the highest number of Cashew Stem and Root Borer (CSRB) dead grubs was recorded in T5-Aluminium Phosphide @ 10 gm/tree (18.66 dead grubs /tree) followed by T2-Dichlorvos @ 20 ml/tree and T1- Dichlorvos @ 10 ml/tree / litre of water (5.66 and 4.33 dead grubs/tree, respectively). With respect to live grubs of CSRB, significantly the highest number of CSRB live grubs was recorded in T12- Untreated control (20.00 live grub/tree).

Introduction

Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) is a an important foreign exchange earning crop of India. It was originally introduced into India from Brazil by Portuguese travellers during sixteenth century mainly for checking soil erosion on the coast. Initially, it was considered as a suitable crop for soil conservation, afforestation and also wasteland development but gradually gained commercial importance.

Cashew is now widely grown in tropical climates and it has very well adapted to the Indian conditions. In India, it is mainly cultivated in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala along the West coast and Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal along the East coast. It is also grown to a limited extent in non traditional areas such as Bidar, Kolar, Chitradurga, Bagalkot, Gadag region of Karnataka.

The production and productivity of cashew is influenced by many factors; among them insect pests is one of the major constraints. As area and productivity of cashew increased, the problem of pests is also increased. In spite of adoption of package of practices, decline in production is mainly due to pest. Cashew is attacked by a number of insect pests during different stages of its growth and development. Around 180 species of insect and non-insect pests were reported to cause substantial yield losses in India (Sundararaju, 1993). Out of these, cashew stem and root borer, is the major pest causing detrimental effect for cashew cultivation.

Materials and Methods

Field studies were carried out during 2019-20 at Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Ullal, Karnataka, India. The different treatments evaluated were listed in (Table 1). The cashew crop spacing was 8 m x 8m. There were total 12 treatments and three replications. Treatments were imposed to the CSRB infested cashew trees and the damaged trunks were wrapped with transparent polythene sheet after applying the treatments on the trunk up to 1 to 1.5 metres height based on symptom of damage by CSRB. Observations were made every day to check the oozing of frass from the trunk. The dead and live grubs were recorded after ten days of treatment application by removing the bark of the trunk.

Results and Discussion

The data obtained on efficacy of treatments against cashew stem borer during 2019-20 given in Table 1. On the 10th day after treatment, significantly highest number of CSRB dead grubs were recorded in T₅- Aluminium Phosphide @ 10 gm/tree (18.66 dead grubs /tree). The next best treatments in recorded highest dead grubs were in T₂-

Dichlorvos @ 20 ml/tree (5.66) which was on par with T₁- Dichlorvos @ 10 ml/tree / lit of water (4.33). The other treatments viz., T₉-Nepthalene Balls @ 4/tree, T₁₀- camphor@ 5 pieces/tree, T₁₁-Only polythene sheet wrapping and T₁₂- Untreated control were recorded with no dead grubs (0.00).

With respect to live grubs after ten days of treatments, significantly the highest number of CSRB live grubs was recorded in T₁₂-Untreated control (20.00 live grub/tree). The other treatments viz., T₁₁-Only polythene sheet wrapping, T₁₀-Camphour 5 pieces / tree, T₉-Nepthalene Balls 4 /tree, T₁- Dichlorvos @ 10 ml/tree / litre of water and T₇-Chlorpyrifos @ 10 ml/litre of water recorded 18.33, 14.00, 11.33, 8.00 and 6.33 live grubs /tree, respectively.

According to Rajapakse *et al.*, (1997) injection of quinalphos (2%), into the galleries or tunnels made by the grub of pest significantly reduces pest menace. Whereas, Senguttuvan and Mahadevan (1997) reported trunk and soil application of monocrotophos at 0.05% at an early stage of infestation @ 100 ml per 30 cm trunk perimeter and phorate 10G @ 100 g per 50 cm perimeter to be superior treatments with 70 per cent mortality and 65-75 per cent recovery of trees. It was also cost effective. Trees with moderate and severe infestation could not be saved.

Post extraction prophylaxis (PEP) trials conducted in cashew plantations of DCR, Puttur for the management of CSRB using chlorpyriphos (0.2%), lindane (0.2%), monocrotophos (0.2%) and with entomopathogenic fungal spore suspensions of *Metarrhizium anisopliae*, revealed that chlorpyrifos (0.2%) was the most effective pesticide in preventing loss of trees due to CSRB damage (Anon., 1998).

Table.1 Effect of different treatments on CSRB grubs after ten days of application

Treatment details	No. of Dead grubs per tree	No. of live grubs per tree
T₁- Dichlorvos @ 10 ml/tree / litre of water	4.33 (2.18) ^b	8.00 (2.88) ^{cde}
T₂-Dichlorvos @ 20 ml/tree	5.66 (2.32) ^b	1.00 (1.22) ^{gh}
T₃-Dimethoate @ 10 ml/tree	2.33(1.67) ^{bc}	3.66(2.03) ^{efg}
T₄-Dimethoate @ 20 ml/tree/litre of water	2.66 (1.71) ^{bc}	1.00 (1.17) ^{gh}
T₅-Aluminium Phosphide @ 10 gm/tree	18.66 (4.36) ^a	0.33 (0.87) ^h
T₆- Chlorpyrifos @ 20 ml/tree	0.33 (0.70) ^{cd}	4.66 (2.25) ^{ef}
T₇- Chlorpyrifos @ 10 ml/litre of water	0.66 (1.05) ^{cd}	6.33 (2.59) ^{de}
T₈-Carbosulfan @ 10 gm per tree	1.33 (1.34) ^{cd}	1.66 (1.46) ^{fgh}
T₉-Nepthalene Balls 4 /tree	0.00 (0.70) ^d	11.33 (3.41) ^{bcd}
T₁₀-Camphour 5 pieces / tree	0.00 (0.70) ^d	14.00 (3.64) ^{abc}
T₁₁-Only polythene sheet wrapping	0.00 (0.70) ^d	18.33 (4.31) ^{ab}
T₁₂-Untreated control	0.00 (0.70) ^d	20.00 (4.50) ^a
SEm±	0.22	0.33
CD @ 5%	0.67	0.97

According to the findings of Mahadevan and Senguttuvan (1999) swabbing the basal trunk of cashew trees with BHC [HCH] 0.2%, coal tar + kerosene (1:2), neem [*Azadirachta indica*] oil 25%, NSKE [neem seed kernel extract] 25%, neem cake extract 25%, karanj [*Pongamia pinnata*] oil 25%, mahua [*Madhuca longifolia*] oil 25%, white cement and waste oil, spraying fenthion 0.1% and pasting with red earth were compared for *P. ferrugineus* control in field trials in Tamil Nadu, India. Results indicated that spraying with fenthion, or swabbing with HCH, coal tar +kerosene or neem oil to a height of 1 m from the ground 4 times a year, during March, June, September and December, was found effective in reducing *P. ferrugineus* incidence by 70-90 per cent. Fenthion was the cheapest

of the effective treatments, and neem oil was the most expensive. Management of CSRB on cashew was reported to be through post extraction prophylaxis after mechanical removal of the larvae of pest and later by application of chlorpyrifos (0.2%) to each pest infested tree at the zone of pest incidence (Anon., 2004). But all the earlier studies indicates that, CSRB management practices were made by swabbing and injecting the chemicals to the cashew trunk. Present study enlightened on the insecticide application along with the transparent polythene stripe wrapping to the main trunk gave the best results in death of the CSRB grubs.

In conclusion, the present study revealed that, among the different treatments, significantly

the highest number of CSRB dead grubs was recorded in T₅-Aluminium Phosphide @ 10 gm/tree followed by T₁- Dichlorvos @ 10 ml/tree / litre of water and T₂-Dichlorvos @ 20 ml/tree. Application of these treatments along with polythene stripe wrapping to the main trunk may be used for effective management of CSRB without scrapping the cashew tree trunk for killing the grubs.

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How to cite this article:

Lakshmana, Mahesh Math and Ranganath, T. R. 2020. Evaluations of Insecticides against Cashew Stem and Root Borer, *Neoplocaederus ferrugineus* (L.). *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 9(03): 2149-2152. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.903.245>