

Short Communications

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Screening of Different Genotypes of Chickpea against Gram Pod Borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*, Hubner)

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ABSTRACT

Chickpea crop suffers due to the losses caused by various insect pests and diseases. It is attacked by eleven species of insect pests. Among these pests, the pod borer, *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) is the most serious insect pest in most of the chickpea growing areas of the world. It damages leaves flowers and pods at different stages of growth and yield losses up to 50 per cent or even more, have been recorded due to the incidence of this pest. Several control measures, especially chemical insecticides, are applied to control this pest. Chemical means of plant protection causes several adverse effects like environment-pollution, pest resurgence, development of resistance in pests against insecticides. To avoid these problems, non-chemical pest control measures need to be promoted. Development and searching of resistant plant material is one of such methods.

Keywords

Helicoverpa armigera,
Chickpea,
Genotypes

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Introduction

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is one of the most important leguminous crop and is extensively cultivated in dry and rain-fed areas of the world. Pulses occupy 70.6 million hectares area and contribute 61.5 million tonnes with an average yield of 871 kg/ha of produce to the world's total food grain

production. In India pulses are grown in about 25.43 million hectare area and produces nearly 17.21 million tonnes (Anonymous, 2017).

Chickpea is the most important pulse crop of India and occupies 9.01 million hectare area with a production of 7.58 million tone accounting for 34.3 per cent and 45.6 per cent

of total pulse area and production, respectively (Anonymous, 2017).

Being a source of high quality protein chickpea enriches the cereal based diet of the people and improves their nutritional balance (Saxena, 1996). Besides it has medicinal importance, as the germinated gram seeds are recommended to cure scurvy and malic and oxalic acids in green leaves cure intestinal disorders (Singh, 1996).

“Chickpea is a very important component of cropping systems of the dry, rainfed areas, because it can fix 80 to 120 kg Nitrogen hectare” through symbiotic nitrogen fixation (Papastylanou, 1987).

In Jabalpur district, the total cultivated area under chickpea is 0.059 million ha with about 0.0519 million tonnes of production. Use of insect pest resistant genotypes of chickpea is important in Indian agriculture and little work has been done on this aspect. Resistant genotypes of chickpea to its pod borer would be an ideal approach for integrated pest management (IPM) of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner).

The use of resistant genotypes is considered as simple, easy, cheap and ideal method of combating pest problems. From farmers' point of view, this can be the most acceptable form of pest control technique. In the past several scientists have made efforts to screen germplasms / genotypes to find resistant sources.

A common limitation is that most of the pest resistant varieties are not high yielding. Breeders are trying to develop high yielding and *Fusarium* wilt resistant lines of chickpea with resistance to pod borer. Totally resistant and high yielding genotypes of chickpea to pod borer are not currently ready for farmers' use, but are likely to become available in near future.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design with 50 treatments (genotypes) replicated twice. Plot size was 3 rows of 2 m length each. Spacing of 30 cm was maintained between rows and 60 cm between plots. Seed treatment with the Rhizobium culture @ 5g/kg seed was used for enhancing nodulation. The crop was sown on December 3, 2017 using standard agronomic practices.

The larval population data were subjected to statistical analysis after transformation ($x + 0.5$), while data in percentages were transformed to their angular values.

Results and Discussion

Total fifty genotypes of chickpea were screened against *H. armigera* to know their response against these genotypes, the damage observations were recorded at flowering and pod formation stages by counting the number of larvae/plant.

Per cent pod damage

The pod damage revealed significant differences among the genotypes under investigation ranging from 5.41 to 24.38 per cent. The minimum pod damage was observed in genotypes E-106 (5.41%) followed by E-156 (5.67%), E-153 (6.49%), E-161 (6.52%) and E-103 (6.81%). Significantly highest per cent pod damage was recorded in genotype E-80 (24.38%) followed by E-33 (18.13%) and E-104 (17.89%), E-154 (17.50). The rest of genotypes showed intermediate pod damage ranged from 6.49 to 14.42 per cent.

Seed yield (kg/ha)

The seed yield in different genotypes ranged from 1408 to 2291 kg/ha. The highest seed

yield of 2291 kg/ha was recorded in the genotype E-161 followed by the genotypes E-105, E-106, E-109, E-111, E-117, E-118, E-77, E-120, E-152, E-153, E-156, E-79, E-161, E-163, E-164, E-28, E-31 and E-34 ranged from 2000 to 2258 kg/ha. The lowest seed yield was observed in genotype E-158 (1408 kg/ha) followed by E-104 (1533 kg/ha), E-154 (1591 kg/ha) and E-108 (1691 kg/ha). Rest of the genotypes recorded intermediate seed yield (ranged from 1700 to 2000 kg/ha).

At flowering stage the larval incidence of *H. armigera* was low, and ranged from 0.20 to 1.10 larvae/plant. The lowest larval population was recorded (0.20 larvae/plant) in genotypes E-31, E-29, E-160, E-162, E-164, E-151, E-152, E-154 and E-155 while highest larval population was recorded (1.10 larvae/plant) in genotypes ICC-3137 and L-550. The present findings are supported by the findings of Ogenga *et al.*, (1994) who reported lowest larval population of *H. armigera* on chickpea cultivars ICC- 506 (0.22 larvae/plant), while Reddy *et al.*, (1996) reported chickpea varieties Pusa 261, BG-374, BG-386 as the least susceptible. Yelshetty *et al.*, (1996) reported genotypes BJ-256 have the lowest pest density under field condition.

At pod formation stage there was a slight increase in larval population in all the genotypes. However, there were significant difference in larval population in all the genotypes, observed. The larval population ranged from 0.50 to 2.30 larvae/plant.

The genotypes E-160 recorded the lowest larval population (0.50 larvae/plant) followed by E-105, E-113, E-114 (0.90 larvae/plant) and E-30 (0.80 larvae/plant). The highest larval population (2.30 larvae/plant) was recorded in genotypes L-550 and E-68 followed by ICC-3137 and E-102 (2.10 larvae/plant).

The present findings are supported by the findings of Bhatnager and Rao (1997) who reported that chickpea genotypes JG-897, JG-322 and JG-394 exhibited good resistance against *H. armigera* under rainfed conditions. Das and Katariya (1998) also reported lowest pod damage (2.7%) in variety JG-74. The pod damage revealed significant differences among the genotypes under investigation ranging from 5.41 to 24.38 per cent. The minimum pod damage was observed in genotypes E-106 (5.41%) followed by E-156 (5.67%) and E-103 (6.81%). Significantly highest per cent pod damage was recorded in genotype E-80 (24.38%).

The seed yield in different genotypes ranged from 1408 to 2291 kg/ha. The highest seed yield of 2291 kg/ha was recorded in the genotype E-161 and the lowest seed yield was observed in genotype E-158 (1408 kg/ha) followed by E-104 (1533 kg/ha) and E-108 (1691 kg/ha). The present findings are inconformity with the findings of Bhatt and Patel (2001) and Mandal (2003) they evaluated the chickpea cultivars against *H. armigera* on yield and per cent pod damage and reported that both the parameters are adopted to produce an illusive picture on resistance. Similarly, Gowda *et al.*, (2005), Parsai (2005), Wakil *et al.*, (2005b), Chandrakar *et al.*, (2006), Gowda *et al.*, (2007), Narayanamma *et al.*, (2007), Kooner and Cheema (2008), Cheema *et al.*, (2010). Chaturvedi and Ali (2010) have considered pod damage and yield parameters as the factors for determining resistance against *H. armigera* in different experiments.

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