

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.909.272>

Effect of Silicon Amendments in Enhancing Resistance of Rice Plants against Brown Plant Hopper *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stal.) in Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Silicon, Rice, Brown plant hopper, Plant resistance

Article Info

Accepted:

17 August 2020

Available Online:

10 September 2020

A field experiment was conducted during kharif 2016 and 2017 in the Central Research Farm of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, to evaluate the efficacy of different sources of organic (DAE and RHA) and inorganic form (CaSiO_3) of silicon at different doses were tested on rice cv., Swarna against brown plant hopper in rice. A population build up to the tune of 11.59, 17.2 and 23.16 hoppers /hill have been registered by highest dose of DAE, CaSiO_3 and RHA respectively at the peak activity of hopper as against 65.59 hoppers/hill in control, exhibiting their supremacy in arresting the pest. However, the performance was at par with that of medium doses indicating the importance of these silicate fertilizers at moderate doses for economic and effective management of BPH in rice.

Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is extensively cultivated under the most diverse ecosystems of tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. With a projected increase in world population to 9–10 billion by 2050 along with the predicted water scarcity, decrease in arable land and the impending global climate change, it is a great challenge to meet the food requirements of these persons. Among various biotic constraints for rice production, insect pests are of prime importance (Heong and Hardy, 2009). Of over 100 species of insects reported as pests of this crop, 20 are of major economic significance (Prakash *et al.*,

2007). The brown planthopper (BPH), *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stål) (Homoptera: Delphacidae), is a typical phloem sap feeder that has reemerged as the treat to rice production in Asia (Normile, 2008; Heong and Hardy, 2009; Prasanna kumar *et al.*, 2013). Rice is a silicon (Si) accumulating plant. Silica is required for healthy and productive development of the rice plant (Yoshida, 1975). Silicon content of monocots is higher than that of dicots. Silicon absorbed by rice from the soil in large amounts that are several fold greater than those of other macronutrients. It is estimated that a rice crop producing a total grain yield of about 5 tonnes ha^{-1} will normally remove 230 to 470 kg Si

ha⁻¹ (500-1000 SiO₂ kg ha⁻¹) from soil (Amarasiri and Perera, 1975). Silicon is absorbed by plants as monosilicic acid [(Si(OH)₄] (Jones and Handreck, 1967). Silicon becomes immobilized and accumulates in plant with tissue age and therefore, young rice leaves may have lower Si concentration and are more susceptible to disease and pests. Extensive cultivation of rice in some regions of Asia and Southeast Asian countries has led to depletion of available silicon (Savant *et al.*, 1997) and warrants the application of silicate fertilizers for achieving sustainable rice yields. The present findings aimed to assess the effect of various doses of silicon in imparting resistance to rice plants against brown plant hopper.

Materials and Methods

Field experiments was carried out in the Central Agricultural Research Farm of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar which is situated at 20⁰15' N latitude and 85⁰ 22' E longitude with an elevation of 25.9 meters above the MSL. Most popular rice variety “*Swarna*” in 2016 and 2017 was taken in the present field investigation. “*Swarna*”, is a medium duration (140 – 150 days), semi dwarf variety with profuse tillering ability. The field experiments was conducted with 10 treatments comprising diatomaceous earth (DAE) at 0.15, 0.3, 0.45 t/ha, calcium silicate (CaSiO₃) at 2, 3, 4 t/ha and rice hull ash (RHA) at 2, 3, 4 t/ha along with an untreated control. DAE is an organic source of “Si” is a naturally occurring, soft, siliceous sedimentary rock that is easily crumbled into a fine white to off-white powder extracted from sea diatoms of American coast containing 80% -90% silicon. CaSiO₃ is an inorganic source of silicon and commercially available for agricultural use and contain 45% Si whereas RHA is organic source, very cheap and available plentifully in

the locality containing 80-90% Si. All the sources of silicon are used at their high, medium, and low optimal dose recommended for soil amelioration to study their impact on insect pests of rice such as brown plant hopper in rice. All the treatments were applied as basal dose to rice field during last puddling and much care was taken to avoid mixing effects of inter plot. Random allocation of treatments was done to plots replication wise laid out for the experiment. The field experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design with ten treatments and three replications and each subplot measured (5m x 4m).

Observations were recorded from 30DAT to 80 DAT randomly from ten plants from each plot treated with silicon amendments in variety *swarna*.

Results and Discussion

Brown pant hopper (BPH) is considered as one of the most serious insect pests of rice in Odisha during both *kharif* and *rabi* seasons. Until now farmers are mostly depending on chemical insecticides for its control and because of this, brown plant hopper has developed resistance to most of the commonly used conventional insecticides. Hence, to tackle this pest we need to develop some eco-holistic approaches of which use of silicon may be one. The result thus, obtained on effect of silicon on BPH through field trials during *kharif* in both the year are presented below.

During *kharif* trial 2016, observations were taken from 30 DAT to 80 DAT of brown plant hopper infesting the rice crop in the field. At 30 DAT, number of insects per hill was found to be very low ranging from (1.59-2.77 insects /hill) in all the treatments to (4.27insects /hill in control). From 40 DAT-60 DAT the population started increasing

with (9.11insects /hill) in DAE @0.15t/ha and (14.08 insects /hill) in control observed in 60DAT. At 70 DAT, there was a sudden increase in plant hopper population. Application of resurgence inducing chemical at lower dose of RHA (2.0 t/ha) on 70 DAT, resulted in high pest load subsequently. As a result, at 70 DAT, response of DAE at high dose of 0.45t/ha (10.48 insects/hill) followed by CaSiO₃ at high dose of 4.0t/ha (16.77 insects/hill) and RHA at high dose of 4.0t/ha (17.53 insects/hill) caused significant variation in plant hopper population in different treatments. The lowest population of (10.48 insects/hill) was observed in T₃ which was at par with T₂, T₆, and T₉ treatments. But at 80 DAT, there was a decline in hopper population because of heavy downpour six days after 80 DAT. The hopper population in T₁ was the highest (13.97 insects /hill) which was significantly higher from rest of the treatments and was at par over control (15.63 insects /hill).

With respect to mean performance it could be observed that DAE at its highest dose supported (5.10 plant hopper/hill) which was less than the control (17.74 insects /hill).

Among the treatments CaSiO₃ at 4.0t/ha harboured least hopper (6.39 insects/hill), followed by RHA at 4.0 t/ha (6.53insects/hill) confirming the decline in level of field resistance to BPH at higher doses.

During kharif trial 2017, observations were taken from 30 DAT to 80 DAT of brown plant hopper infesting the rice crop in the field. At 30 DAT, number of brown plant hopper per hill was found to be very low ranging from (1.78-2.18 insects /hill in all the treatments to 3.63insects /hill in control). From 40 DAT- 60 DAT the population of brown plant hopper started increasing with (10.83 insects /hill) in RHA at 2.0 t/ha and (16.03 insects /hill) in control in 60DAT. There was a sudden increase in plant hopper population in 70DAT due to application of resurgence inducing chemical at lower dose of DAE at 2.0t/ha on 70 DAT, resulted in high pest load subsequently. As a result, at 70 DAT, response of DAE at 0.45t/ha (12.71 insects/hill) followed by CaSiO₃ at 4.0t/ha (17.63 insects /hill) and RHA at 3.0t/ha (28.80 insects /hill) caused significant variation in brown plant hopper population in different treatments.

Treatment details

Treatments no.	Test products	Source	Dose(t/ha)	Place of procurement
T ₁	Diatomaceous earth	Organic	0.15	Low dose
T ₂	Diatomaceous earth	Organic	0.30	Medium dose
T ₃	Diatomaceous earth	Organic	0.45	High dose
T ₄	Calcium silicate	Inorganic	2.0	Low dose
T ₅	Calcium silicate	Inorganic	3.0	Medium dose
T ₆	Calcium silicate	Inorganic	4.0	High dose
T ₇	Rice hull ash	Organic	2.0	Low dose
T ₈	Rice hull ash	Organic	3.0	Medium dose
T ₉	Rice hull ash	Organic	4.0	High dose
T ₁₀	Untreated check			

Table.1 Effect of silicon amendments on Brown plant hopper incidence in rice var. Swarna during *kharif* 2016

Tr. No.	Treatments	Dose (t/ha)	Brown plant hopper population (Nos./hill) in <i>Kharif</i> 2016						
			30DAT	40DAT	50DAT	60DAT	70DAT	80DAT	MEAN
T ₁	DAE	0.15	2.77	4.46	5.08	9.11	35.06	13.97	11.74
T ₂	DAE	0.30	1.59	1.97	3.64	5.61	15.03	7.47	5.89
T ₃	DAE	0.45	1.76	2.26	3.10	6.40	10.48	6.57	5.10
T ₄	CaSiO ₃	2.0	2.64	3.23	6.40	6.97	30.33	9.86	9.91
T ₅	CaSiO ₃	3.0	1.82	2.37	3.83	5.52	21.84	8.27	7.28
T ₆	CaSiO ₃	4.0	1.98	2.03	4.27	5.66	16.77	7.63	6.39
T ₇	RHA	2.0	2.75	5.57	7.30	7.37	36.36	10.68	11.67
T ₈	RHA	3.0	1.88	3.15	5.49	6.35	23.86	8.56	8.22
T ₉	RHA	4.0	1.79	3.45	4.84	5.24	17.53	6.30	6.53
T ₁₀	Control		4.27	8.47	10.08	14.08	53.89	15.63	17.74
	SE(m) _±		0.354	0.678	0.620	0.637	2.250	0.668	
	C.D. _{0.05}		1.05	2.01	1.84	1.89	6.68	1.98	

DAT- Days after treatment

Table.2 Effect of silicon amendments on Brown plant hopper incidence in rice var. Swarna during *kharif* 2017

Tr. No.	Treatments	Dose (t/ha)	Brown plant hopper population (Nos./hill) in <i>Kharif</i> 2017						
			30DAT	40DAT	50DAT	60DAT	70DAT	80DAT	MEAN
T ₁	DAE	0.15	1.97	2.17	3.56	9.35	32.99	9.80	9.97
T ₂	DAE	0.30	2.11	1.68	2.79	5.04	16.53	7.05	5.87
T ₃	DAE	0.45	1.78	2.00	1.82	4.33	12.71	5.38	4.67
T ₄	CaSiO ₃	2.0	2.07	2.32	3.96	7.96	31.79	10.98	9.85
T ₅	CaSiO ₃	3.0	2.13	1.39	2.16	5.55	21.73	8.48	6.91
T ₆	CaSiO ₃	4.0	2.18	1.93	2.48	4.91	17.63	9.76	6.48
T ₇	RHA	2.0	2.05	3.67	3.67	10.83	40.34	12.93	12.25
T ₈	RHA	3.0	2.08	2.73	3.56	7.69	28.80	8.46	8.89
T ₉	RHA	4.0	1.92	1.35	2.60	5.70	31.10	10.45	8.85
T ₁₀	Control		3.63	5.82	7.65	16.03	77.29	17.88	21.38
	SE(m) _±		0.466	0.617	0.686	0.814	2.260	1.131	
	C.D. _{0.05}		NS	1.83	2.03	2.42	6.71	3.36	

DAT- Days after treatment

Table.3 Brown plant hopper incidence pooled data over *kharif* 2016 and 2017 as influenced by different sources of silicon in rice var. Swarna

Tr. No.	Treatment and dose (t/ha)	30DAT			40DAT			50DAT			60DAT			70DAT			80DAT		
		2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Pooled (2016-2017)
T ₁	DAE (0.15)	2.77	1.97	2.37	4.46	2.17	3.32	5.08	3.56	4.32	9.11	9.35	9.23	35.06	32.99	34.03	13.97	9.8	11.89
T ₂	DAE (0.30)	1.59	2.11	1.85	1.97	1.68	1.83	3.64	2.79	3.22	5.61	5.04	5.33	15.03	16.53	15.78	7.47	7.05	7.26
T ₃	DAE (0.45)	1.76	1.78	1.77	2.26	2.00	2.13	3.1	1.82	2.46	6.4	4.33	5.37	10.48	12.71	11.60	6.57	5.38	5.98
T ₄	CaSiO ₃ (2.0)	2.64	2.07	2.36	3.23	2.32	2.78	6.4	3.96	5.18	6.97	7.96	7.47	30.33	31.79	31.06	9.86	10.98	10.42
T ₅	CaSiO ₃ (3.0)	1.82	2.13	1.98	2.37	1.39	1.88	3.83	2.16	3.00	5.52	5.55	5.54	21.84	21.73	21.79	8.27	8.48	8.38
T ₆	CaSiO ₃ (4.0)	1.98	2.18	2.08	2.03	1.93	1.98	4.27	2.48	3.38	5.66	4.91	5.29	16.77	17.63	17.20	7.63	9.76	8.70
T ₇	RHA (2.0)	2.74	2.05	2.40	5.57	3.67	4.62	7.3	3.67	5.49	7.37	10.83	9.10	36.36	40.34	38.35	10.68	12.93	11.81
T ₈	RHA (3.0)	1.88	2.08	1.98	3.15	2.73	2.94	5.49	3.56	4.53	6.35	7.69	7.02	23.86	28.80	26.33	8.56	8.46	8.51
T ₉	RHA (4.0)	1.79	1.92	1.86	3.45	1.35	2.40	4.84	2.6	3.72	5.24	5.7	5.47	17.53	31.10	24.32	6.3	10.45	8.38
T ₁₀	Control	4.27	3.63	3.95	8.47	5.82	7.15	10.08	7.65	8.87	14.08	16.03	15.06	53.89	77.29	65.59	15.63	17.88	16.76
	SE(m) _±	0.354	0.466	0.519	0.678	0.617	0.896	0.62	0.686	0.863	0.637	0.814	0.925	2.25	2.26	3.049	0.668	1.131	1.068
	C.D. _{0.05}	1.05	1.38	1.49	2.01	1.83	2.57	1.84	2.03	2.47	1.89	2.42	2.65	6.68	6.71	8.74	1.98	3.36	3.06

DAT- Days after treatment

The lowest population of (12.71 insects/hill) was observed in T₃ which was at par with T₂, T₆, and T₉ treatments. But at 80 DAT, there was a decline in hopper population because of heavy rainfall six days after 80 DAT. The hopper population in T₇ was the highest (12.93 insects/hill) which was significantly higher than the rest of the treatments but significantly lower than control (17.83 insects /hill). With respect to mean performance it could be observed that RHA at its lower dose supported 12.25 plant hopper/hill which was less than the control (21.38 insects /hill). DAE at 0.45 t/ha showed less incidence of insects (4.67/hill) which was lower than control (21.38/hill) followed by CaSiO₃ at 4.0t/ha (6.48 /hill), and RHA at 4.0t /ha (8.85 /hill) confirming the decline in level of field resistance among different silicon treated plants.

Pooled data

The pooled data of two seasons trial with cv. Swarna presented in (Table 3) revealed that all the Si treatments showed low infestation of brown plant hopper over control. Supremacy of highest dose of DAE (0.45t/ha) with a record of (11.60insects/hill) in 70DAT followed with high dose of CaSiO₃ (4.0 t/ha) recorded (17.20insects/hill) and highest dose of RHA (0.45 t/ha) recorded (24.32insects/hill) over control (65.59insects/hill). Similar trend was seen in 80DAT with better results of DAE (0.45t/ha) recorded (5.98insects/hill) followed with high dose of CaSiO₃ (4.0 t/ha) recorded (8.70 insects/hill) and highest dose of RHA (0.45 t/ha) recorded (8.38 insects/hill) over control (16.76 insects/hill).

Field experiments have been conducted with cultivar 'Swarna' in kharif in 2016-2017. Rice cultivar 'Swarna' is the most popular variety amongst the rice growers of the state and widely cultivated in kharif season. The variety is popular because of its grain quality and yield potentiality. However, this cultivar is moderately susceptible to major insect pests and diseases and hence, suitable for the

entomological experiments. Brown plant hopper infestation was recorded at highest peak activity in both the season. In kharif season 2016 lowest incidence in DAE at 0.45t/ha (10.48insects/hill) was recorded in cv. Swarna followed with casio₃ at 4.0t/ha (16.77insects/hill) and RHA at 4.0t/ha (17.53insects/hill) as against (53.89insects/hill) in control in table 1. In *kharif* season 2017 lowest incidence in DAE at 0.45t/ha (12.71insects/hill) was recorded in cv. Swarna followed with CaSiO₃ at 4.0t/ha (17.63 insects/hill) and RHA at 3.0t/ha (28.80 insects/hill) as against (77.29 insects/hill) in control in table 2.

Silicon amendments at various doses showed significant effects in arresting the plant hopper damage compared to that of control. The efficacy however, differed from source to source and dose to dose. Over seasons DAE at (0.45 t/ha) along with CaSiO₃ at (4.0 t/ha) and RHA at (4.0 t/ha) demonstrated their supremacy in restricting the brown plant hopper damage.

Rice has been reported to be one of the several typical Si accumulating plant species and Si accumulation in rice was proved to be an active process (Ma *et al.*, 2006). For BPH, reduced performance was recorded on rice plants treated hydroponically with high Si concentrations (He *et al.*, 2015). A recent report determined that Si amendment impaired feeding behaviors and reduced the feeding amount and population growth in BPH (Yang *et al.*, 2017). It appears that silicon defence against insects is either due to enhanced physical protection for attack or plant parts of being a low quality because Si deposition makes it less digestible. Silicon content regulation of biochemical pathways may also play a role in inducing resistance (Van Bockhaven *et al.*, 2013). The present findings support the hypothesis that Si amendments through different sources (Table 1 and 2) restricting the brown plant hopper damage to rice plants. In the present study, plants receiving higher doses of DAE, CaSiO₃ and RHA showed low infestation and damage to the plant.

Acknowledgement

The authors are very much thankful to Dr. S.K. Pattnaik, Ex- Professor and head, Dept of Soil science and Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology for helping in successful research of silicon amendments in field trial conducted in kharif season.

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How to cite this article:

Subhalaxmi Roy and Santosh Kumar Panda. 2020. Effect of Silicon Amendments in Enhancing Resistance of Rice Plants against Brown Plant Hopper *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stal.) in Odisha. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(09): 2171-2177. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.909.272>