



Journal of Applied and Natural Science
10 (4): 1271-1275 (2018)
ISSN : 0974-9411 (Print), 2231-5209 (Online)
journals.ansfoundation.org

Bio-rational insecticides toxicity against *Liriomyza trifolii* (Burgess) damaging Cantaloupes, *Cucumis melo* var. *cantalupensis*

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Abstract

Field experiments were conducted for two seasons (2015-16 and 2016-17) to evaluate bio-rational insecticides against leaf miner (*Liriomyza trifolii*) damaging cantaloupes and it was found that among various insecticides viz. spinosad 45SC@0.32ml/l, abamectin 1.9EC @0.3ml/l, fipronil 5SC@2ml/l, fipronil 80WG@0.15g/l, cyantraniliprole 10OD@1.8ml/l, triazophos 40EC@2ml/l, diafenthiuron 50WP@1g/l, novaluron 10EC@1ml/l, neem soap@7.5g/l, pongamia soap@7.5g/l, azadirachtin 1%EC @5ml/l, abamectin (1.03-2.33 mined leaves/10ft row) and spinosad (1.18-3.33 mined leaves/10ft row) in both the seasons prove to be highly effective in minimising the damage. All the treatments had significant effect on the yield as compared to control but among treatments they were non-significant in first season which was not the case in second season where highest yield was noted in spinosad (11.43t/acre) followed by azadirachtin(9.79t/acre) and abamectin (9.67t/acre). Though there was variation in yield within these treatments but they were statistically on par with each other. Similarly the treatments were on par with each other with respect to number of fruits per vine, fruit weight, TSS and number of seeds set per fruit. The overall findings indicate that the molecules viz., abamectin and spinosad can be recommended to control leaf miner in cantaloupes to achieve an appreciable yield.

Keywords: Abamectin, Cantaloupes, *Liriomyza trifolii*, Spinosad

Article Info

DOI:[10.31018/jans.v10i4.1898](https://doi.org/10.31018/jans.v10i4.1898)

Received: September 18, 2018

Revised: November 21, 2018

Accepted: November 27, 2018

How to Cite

Reddy, D.S. *et al.* (2018). Bio-Rational insecticides toxicity against *Liriomyza trifolii* (Burgess) damaging Cantaloupes, *Cucumis melo* var. *cantalupensis*. *Journal of Applied and Natural Science*, 10(4): 1271-1275

INTRODUCTION

Cucurbits are one of the most widely grown vegetable crops during *kharif* and summer season in all parts of the country and due to development and introduction of new hybrids of melons and cantaloupes, the cultivation of these crops in Andhra Pradesh is expanding and farmers are reaping benefits in short duration. The introduction of new mechanization practices in horticulture viz., drip irrigation, mulching and fertigation were being adopted on larger scale by the growers due to encouragement and financial support by the public sector departments by providing subsidies, so that even small and marginal farmers are also able to earn the profit by cultivating these very short duration (55-60 days) and high profitable crops. At the same time, the pest scenario has been changing and the insect pests which were restricted to certain group of cucurbits also started damaging the melons and cantaloupes and

among them, a regular and severe damage insect pest attacking these crops is serpentine leafminer. Serpentine leafminer, *Liriomyza trifolii* (Burgess) is a polyphagous insect and attacks a wide range of vegetables and ornamentals all over the world (Parrella, 1987, Seal *et al.* 2002). Both larvae and adults damage the host plants. The larvae feed on leaf mesophyll and reduce chlorophyll content. The adults also damage the leaves by puncturing them for feeding and oviposition (Parrella *et al.*, 1985). Biological control of the leaf miners has had limited success so far and at present, chemical control is the main tactic in managing these pests (Fathipour *et al.*, 2006). *Liriomyza* has a potential to develop a resistance to insecticides and this potential affects effective control of leafminers (Parrella, 1987). The strong capability of *L. trifolii* to develop resistance to insecticides also made a displacement of other species on several crops possible (Schuster and Everett,

1983). It was also demonstrated that *L. trifolii* is more tolerant to insecticides than other agromyzid species (Parrella and Keil, 1985). Cyromazine, abamectin and spinosad are known as effective compounds for the control of leafminers (Ferguson, 2004; Priyono et al., 2004). Abamectin is a mixture of two avermectins and is classified in the IRAC group 6 or glutamate-gated chloride channel allosteric modulators (IRAC, 2015), and they hinder neural and neuromuscular transmissions (Ananiev et al. 2002). Similarly spinosad is found effective against thrips, flies, leaf miner, caterpillars/worms damaging leaf and fruit with a unique mode of action and showing low toxicity towards birds and mammals (Van Leeuwen et al., 2006) and been used for controlling insect pests of vegetables, fruits and cotton. The less risk insecticide that have potential to manage *L. trifolii* is Azadirachtin, a botanical acts as an insect growth regulator that prevents molting and hence is effective against immature stages (Koul, 1999). The growers adopt pesticide spray to manage leaf miner only when larval mines are visible on the leaves and generally make several applications in the growing season. Determining the residual activity of insecticides with reduced risk will be useful in avoiding unnecessary chemical treatments. The conventional insecticide for example triazophos recommended against serpentine leaf miner (Udyana Panchagam, 2015) on cucurbits gave low to moderate control in the farmer's field and hence there is a need to test newer biorational and safer molecules that have novel mode of action (ZREAC Proceedings, 2016). In justification of this background, the present study was undertaken to know the residual effect of biorational insecticides, namely abamectin, spinosad, novaluron, botanicals (neem and pongamia), and a new novel compound, cyantraniliprole on *L. trifolii* damaging cantaloupes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cantaloupe crop was raised on fine tilth red loamy soil beds of 1m width, 50m length and 15cm height with drip irrigation facilities and these beds were covered with black polythene mulching sheet having thickness of 25 μ . The hybrid seed "Kundan" was procured from Known U Seed Company Ltd., Pune. There were in total eleven treatments (spinosad 45SC@0.32ml/l, abamectin 1.9EC @0.3ml/l, fipronil 5SC@2ml/l, fipronil 80WG@0.15g/l, cyantraniliprole10OD@1.8ml/l, triazophos 40EC@2ml/l, diafenthiuron 50WP@1g/l, novaluron 10EC@1ml/l, neem soap@7.5g/l, pongamia soap@7.5g/l, azadirachtin 1%EC @5ml/l) and a control. A 2" hole was made using plastic pipe and seeds were sown at the rate of 1 seed per hole to a depth of 1 to 1 1/2 " in the III week of February in both the seasons (2015-16 and 2016-17 summer seasons). The seeds germinated after 7 to 8 DAS and when the crop was 15-16 days old i.e., 2-3 leaf stage, the treatments were imposed. The experiment was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Dr.YSR Horticultural University Anantharajupet, Railway Kodur, Kadapa District, AP. Three replications were maintained for each treatment. The data with respect to leaf miner incidence was recorded on the number of mined leaves for every 10ft row and subjected to statistical analysis. Fruits were harvested when there was complete formation of net on the fruit. The yield parameters viz., number of fruits per vine, average individual fruit weight (g), yield per acre (tonnes) and a important fruit quality parameter i.e., TSS was also recorded for both the seasons.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cantaloupes leaf damage from leaf miner activity was minimal when evaluated at 7, 14 and 21 days

Table 1. Novel insecticide toxicities against *Liriomyza trifolii* damaging cantaloupes.

Treatments	Number of mined leaves/ 10ft row					
	2015-16 (I season)			2016-17 (II season)		
	7DAS	14DAS	21DAS	7DAS	14DAS	21DAS
Spinosad 45SC	2.67**(1.91*)	3.00(1.98)	3.33 (2.07)	1.92(1.38)	1.18(1.08)	2.17(1.63)
Abamectin 1.9EC	2.00(1.73)	2.00(1.73)	2.33 (1.82)	1.03(1.42)	1.85(1.66)	1.74(1.64)
Fipronil 5SC	5.33(2.51)	6.00(2.64)	6.67 (2.76)	4.77(2.17)	5.08(2.05)	6.85(2.62)
Fipronil 80WG	4.67(2.37)	5.00(2.44)	5.67(2.58)	4.52(2.11)	5.73(3.29)	6.63(2.57)
Cyantraniliprole 10OD	3.00(2.00)	3.33(2.07)	4.33 (2.30)	3.16(2.03)	2.81(1.84)	3.10(1.76)
Triazophos 40EC	5.67(2.58)	6.33(2.69)	7.00(2.82)	3.17(1.77)	6.63(2.57)	7.07(2.66)
Diafenthiuron 50WP	6.67(2.76)	8.00(3.00)	8.33(3.054)	5.47(2.34)	8.43(2.90)	9.27(3.04)
Novaluron 10EC	6.33(2.69)	6.67(2.75)	8.00(2.882)	4.27(2.05)	5.67(2.38)	5.73(2.39)
Neem soap	9.00(3.07)	8.50(2.99)	10.00(3.24)	7.07(2.66)	8.77(2.98)	8.67(2.94)
Pongamia soap	8.00(2.90)	9.50(3.16)	11.00(3.38)	9.60(2.35)	10.28(3.35)	9.61(3.25)
Azadirachtin 1%EC	5.00 (2.44)	6.33(2.69)	7.00(2.825)	4.17(2.04)	5.53(2.35)	7.17(2.67)
Control	8.33 (3.04)	10(3.30)	10.33(3.35)	8.67(2.94)	14.57(3.81)	15.60(3.95)
CD (P=0.05)	0.252	0.406	0.313	1.60	1.26	0.67

*Figures in parenthesis represent square root transformation values; ** Values out of parenthesis are mean of three replications; DAS-Days after spray

Table 2. Novel molecules effect on Cantaloupes yield and quality parameter.

Treatment	2015-16 (I season)					2016-17 (II season)				
	Average No. of fruits per vine	Average Individual fruit weight (In grams)	Yield (t/acre)	TSS (°Brix)	No. of seeds set per fruit	Average No. of fruits per vine	Average Individual fruit weight (In grams)	Yield (t/acre)	TSS (°Brix)	No. of seeds set per fruit
Spinosad 45SC	2.60	1536.75	10.55	7.35	416	3.28	1322.47	11.43	8.83	395
Abamectin 1.9EC	2.71	1484.80	12.30	6.77	290	2.74	1320.96	9.67	9.23	321
Fipronil 5SC	4.00	1700.75	17.96	6.07	411	2.56	1269.60	8.57	8.37	398
Fipronil 80WG	3.33	1507.55	13.25	5.33	349	2.28	1369.68	8.16	8.30	325
Cytrantraniliprole100D	2.70	1318.33	9.39	6.85	380	3.11	1154.47	9.45	7.12	401
Triazophos 40EC	3.17	1423.83	11.84	5.10	376	2.56	1049.75	6.82	7.20	353
Diafenthuron 50WP	3.50	1487.16	13.74	8.25	366	1.82	1188.31	5.97	8.60	408
Novaluron 10EC	3.00	1326.08	10.51	6.53	431	2.11	1591.57	8.89	8.57	423
Neem soap	2.65	1385.25	10.80	6.74	425	1.33	1416.42	4.93	10.27	431
Pongamia soap	2.81	1452.56	11.12	7.01	433	2.67	835.70	5.88	9.27	428
Azadirachtin 1%EC	2.83	1429.08	10.68	7.33	367	2.83	1311.33	9.79	8.67	372
Control	2.87	1528.22	11.62	6.95	406.5	2.47	871.87	5.85	7.80	411
CD (P=0.05)	NS*	NS	NS	NS	NS	1.01	237.73	3.44	NS	NS

*NS- Non significant

after various bioinsecticidal treatments following each of the two weekly application dates (Table 1). Untreated cantaloupes exhibited increased number of mined leaves at weekly observation dates. Abamectin treated cantaloupes showed minimal of 2.00 mined leaves at 7 and 14 DAS and 2.33 mined leaves at 21 DAS during 2015-16 season. The higher efficacy of abamectin (ABM) is due to translaminar action and that has been a primary means of controlling *Liriomyza* leafminers and furthermore, it was found that ABM exhibited dramatic effect against leaf mining Agromyzidae (Cox et al., 1995; Weintraub, 1999, 2001). Mined leaves were also observed in the spinosad treated cantaloupes i.e. 2.67 at 7 DAS, 3.00 at 14 DAS and 3.33 at 21 DAS significantly differing from other treatments. In support of our observation, Gahbiche (2001) tested the toxicity of spinosad and reported that it gave 100 percent mortality of first instar larvae and 89.30 percent mortality of third instar larvae of *L. trifolii*. Cyantraniliprole applied on cantaloupes showed fewer numbers of mined leaves (3.00-4.33 per 10 ft row) during the total observational period followed by fipronil insecticide with both the formulations under study where fipronil 80WG exhibited less mined leaves i.e. 4.67, 5.00 and 5.67 at 7, 14 and 21 DAS as compared to fipronil 5 SC i.e. 5.33, 6.00 and 6.67 at 7, 14 and 21 days after spray, respectively where former formulation was significantly different. Similarly Apte (2001) and Gawade (2003) reported average efficacy of fipronil against *Liriomyza trifolii* on gerbera. The other biorational molecule, novaluron also had higher number of mined leaves (6.33 at 7DAS, 6.67 at 14DAS and 8.00 at 21 DAS) but significantly lesser than neem soap, pongamia soap and control plot. The neem based formulation, azadirachtin 1%EC significantly recorded lesser number of leaf mines in cantaloupe than triazophos, diafenthuron and novaluron as these latter molecules were less effective but superior over neem and pongamia soaps. The untreated cantaloupes showed an increase of 10.33 mined leaves at 21DAT compared to the previous observational period (8.33 at 7DAS and 10.0 at 14DAS). Cantaloupes were harvested at the end of the season and there were no significant differences between number of leaf mining activity and yield in I season period (table 2) though fipronil treated melons yielded 17.96t/acre as compared to the other treatments and the untreated. Fipronil treated melons also offered a higher number of fruits per vine (4.00) and fruit weight (1700.75g), at better than spinosad and abamectin treatments. Though prior to harvest, visual observations of the vine vigor indicated that the spinosad and abamectin treated cantaloupes were more vigorous and had darker green vines as compared to the other treated vines but more fruit appeared to be set on the fipronil 5SC treated

vines and the fruit appeared slightly larger. There was no significant difference in treatments with respect to TSS and number of seeds set per fruit though cantaloupes harvested from diafenthiuron sprayed plot recorded highest TSS of 8.25° brix followed by spinosad of 7.35°Brix and lowest in fipronil 80WG (5.35°Brix) and in control, a 6.95°Brix higher than the latter treatment.

All the treatments were significantly superior over control (15.60 mined leaves per 10 ft row at 21DAS) at three observations recorded in second season and the data for leaf mining from second season depicted a similar trend showing that abamectin had lowest number of mined leaves i.e. 1.03, and 1.74 per 10ft row at 7 and 21 days after spray followed by spinosad (1.92 and 2.17 per 10ft row at 7 and 21 DAS) and both were on par with each other at all the three observational periods. In support of our observations, Desai Niranjan Ravsaheb (2013) results on efficacy of different insecticides on cucumber through foliar sprays showed that abamectin 1.9EC@0.00057% was most effective treatment for suppression of *Liriomyza trifolii* with maximum crop growth and yield. The other treatments viz., cyantraniliprole, showed significantly lower number of mined leaves compared to botanicals and control. Among the botanicals, azadirachtin sprayed cantaloupe plot significantly registered lower number of mined leaves (7.17) as compared to neem soap (8.67) and pongamia soap (9.61) at 21 DAS but all these treatments produced higher leaf mining activity than novaluron, 4.27, 5.67 and 5.73 mined leaves per 10ft row at 7, 14 and 21 days after spray, respectively. The widely used insecticide for leaf miner control triazophos though initially (7DAS) showed less leaf mining (3.17) but increased at 14 and 21 DAS but significantly less than diafenthiuron treatment indicating that this latter insecticide is not effective against serpentine leaf miner. The information on yield and quality parameters can be revealed from table 4 that maximum number of fruits per vine (3.28) were observed in spinosad 45SC treatment followed by cyantraniliprole 10OD (3.11), azadirachtin (2.83), abamectin(2.74), pongamia soap (2.67), fipronil 5SC(2.56) and triazophos 40EC(2.56), control (2.47) fipronil 5SC (2.56), fipronil 80WG (2.28) and novaluron(2.11) and though there was variation in number of fruits produced in different treatments but they were on par with each other except in neem soap (1.33) applied plot which recorded minimum number of fruits. Similarly maximum fruit weight of 1591.57 grams was recorded in novaluron treatment followed by neem soap (1416.42g) and lowest weight of 835.70g was noted in pongamia soap sprayed plot. With respect to yield, though spinosad gave maximum fruit yield of 11.43 tonnes per acre followed by azadirachtin (9.79t/acre), abamectin (9.67t/acre) but all the

treatments were insignificant with each other. There was no significant difference in treatments with respect to TSS and number of seeds set per fruit though fruits harvested from neem soap sprayed plot recorded highest TSS of 10.27°Brix and lowest in cyantraniliprole 10OD treated plot (7.12°Brix). It is worth to note that triazophos, neem soap and diafenthiuron treated cantaloupes appeared more chlorotic and less vigorous and these insecticides exhibited phytotoxic symptoms on leaves during II season. The botanical based insecticides mainly azadirachtin compared to pongamia also showed good efficacy against leaf miner in both the seasons and to further add Ganapathy et al., (2010) reported NSKE@ 4-5% and azadirachtin applications were found to be the one of the promising treatments after insecticides in controlling *L. trifolii* on cucumber and tomato and the botanical was not an ovipositional deterrent, but killed first instar larvae. The field findings from both the seasons study indicate that abamectin was the most effective insecticide molecule with low leaf mines damaged by serpentine leaf miner followed by spinosad and with respect to fruit yield both were on par with each other and in strong support of our research findings, Similarly Shashan et al. (2016) recorded lowest number of mines, larvae and pupae with abamectin and spinosad and are potential biorational insecticides to manage *L. trifolii* on snap bean. A further observation with respect to fruit yield also depicted a similar trend with our data that though maximum fruit yield was recorded in abamectin but it was at par with spinosad. Our data observation also had other findings that though there was variation in terms of efficacy against leaf mining activity with each treatment but that could not influence the yield significantly among the treatments and in support, Kotze and Dennill (1996) observed that the phenology of *L. trifolii* feeding (before or during and after flowering) had no effect and the effect of herbivory by *L. trifolii* was not obscured by any relationship between fruit production and growth of the tomato plants.

Our results when coupled with findings from previous tests conducted on tomato, cucumber indicate that abamectin and spinosad can be considered an excellent replacement for organophosphate insecticides in foliar sprays in cantaloupes as spinosad (a metabolite) is a mixture of spinosyns A & D, the soil fermentation products of the soil *Saccharopolyspora spinosa* Mertz and Yao, and is active at low application rates, has low mammalian toxicity, and reduced impact on natural enemies (DowElanco 1994; Stark et al., 2004). These insecticides, abamectin and spinosad are environment friendly for successful management of serpentine leaf miner, *Liriomyza trifolii* in different growing regions in India where they are serious economic pests as well as for the eradication of

accidental introductions into other crops.

Conclusion

In conclusion to manage serpentine leaf miner, *Liriomyza trifolii* in cantaloupes, the tested biorational insecticides, spinosad 45SC@ 0.32ml/l and abamectin 1.9EC@0.3ml/l proved to be highly effective by registering lower mined leaves i.e. 3.33 and 2.17, 2.33 and 1.74 at 21 days after spray with yield of 10.55; 11.43t/ha and 12.30; 967tha for first and second seasons, respectively against the insect pest under study and can be well recommended for growers.

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