

Research Article

Efficacy of different botanical and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) in bitter gourd

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Abstract

Present experiment was laid out to study the efficacy of different botanicals and synthetic insecticides against red pumpkin beetle in bitter gourd crop. The trial was conducted at Research Farm of Bakhra Shaker Khan, Sibi-Balochistan. Five Treatments viz., Neem oil 1L/acre, Castor oil 1L/acre, Melathion 250L/acre, Imidachloprid 250L/acre with a control (untreated) plot was utilized for this experiment. The efficacy of insecticides was observed after 0, 24, 72 and 7 days of insecticides spraying. 2.94, 2.92, 3.22, 3.72 and 4.17 larvae / leaf was died against Neem oil after 0 hrs, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 7 days, similarly 3.22, 3.31, 3.81, 4.08 and 4.31 after 0 hrs, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 7 days against Caster oil, 2.09, 1.32, 1.34, 2.17 and 3.15 after 0 hrs, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 7 days against Melathanion, 1.93, 1.98, 2.09, 2.29 and 3.15 after 0 hrs, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 7 days against Imidachloprid. In control 3.407, 3.95, 4.00, 4.42 and 5.64 after 0 hrs, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 7 days was noted. The results indicated that Melathion 250 / acre and Imidachloprid 250L/acre are highly effective against *Aulacophora foveicollis*.

Keywords: Bitter Gourd; Efficacy; Plant extract; Red pumpkin beetle; Synthetic insecticides

Introduction

Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) is a Cucurbitaceous family and cross-pollinated

crop. It is used as a vegetable widespread grown-up and rest of the world [1]. It is also cultivated as an important vegetable crop in

many areas of Pakistan [2]. [3] Studied that the fruit fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*), and Red Pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) are dangerous insect pests of bitter gourd plant. Red Pumpkin Beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) as a serious insect pest of cucurbitaceous vegetables, cucumber, melons and it is an important crop of Pakistan; it heavy losses due to the pest Red pumpkin beetle. By the application of chemical pesticides pumpkin beetle is mostly controlled. Yield is usually losses 30-100% due to red pumpkin beetle [4]. Losses due to infestation are quite evident which may reach up to 35- 75% [5]. The pest is occurring throughout the year which causes serious damage to the crops [6]. Some studies have already been done on the different factors relating to the abundance of red pumpkin beetle in different crops [7-9]. The most commonly used method for controlling red pumpkin beetle in Bangladesh is the application of insecticides [10]. But the main problem is indiscriminate application of the doses of synthetic pesticides. However, due to the unconscious use of synthetic insecticide development of insect resistance to insecticides, induction of resurgence to target pests, outbreak of secondary pests and undesirable effect on non-target organisms as well as serious environment pollutions is occurred. Insecticide residues can exist in fruit which cause health hazard to consumers. To control this pest properly it is necessary to determine the extent of damage and to find out the accurate dose of the insecticide. Keeping in view the above facts and figures this study was conducted to equate the efficacy of different insecticides / botanicals against Red Pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) in Bitter gourd.

Materials and methods

To check the efficacy of different botanical and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle in bitter gourd. The research trail was conducted at Research Farm of Bakhra

Shaker Khan, Sibi – Balochistan. The detail of experiment is given below:

Experiment Design

Experimental design was conducted in Randomized Complete Block Design with 3 replication and the details of treatments is given below.

T₁ Neem

T₂ Castor.

T₃ Malathion

T₄ Imidachloprid

T₅ control

Uniform cultural practices were applied to all the treatments. Selected ten plants to record the pest infestation. Pre and post observations were recorded, pre-treatment observation was taken before 24 hours. And post was recorded after 24, 48, 72 hours and 1 week after treatments application.

Statistical analysis

Using computer software program Statistix 8.1 [11] by two ways ANOVA was conducted, and Tukey HSD at p value 0.05 was applied for comparison of means.

Results and discussion

To check the efficacy of different botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) in Bitter gourd the research was conducted at Research Farm of Bakhra Shaker Khan Tehsil, District Sibi Balochistan province. where the red pumpkin beetle attack as a key pest on bitter gourd, Cucumber and pumpkin. The following Botanicals and synthetic insecticides such as T₁= Neem Oil 1L/acre, T₂= Castor Oil 1L/acre, T₃= Malathion 250L/acre, T₄= Imidachloprid 250L/acre and T₅= Control were sprayed three times on the crop. The observations were recorded on population of red pumpkin beetle pre and post spraying.

Effect of various botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) in Bitter gourd before and after 1st Spray

The data in (Table 1) revealed that pretreatment count of red pumpkin beetle was 22.75, 21.25, 21, 75, 20.75 and 14.00adults /plot of bitter gourd in T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5. After first spray, average mortality of red pumpkin beetle was counted as 32.59%, 46.26%, 56.92% and 53.36% on T1, 22.79%, 36.90%, 47.29% and 38.97% on T2, 39.65%, 67.36%, 83.90and 68.83% on T3, 28.31%, 54.38%, 69.63%and 57.38% on

T4 after 24 hrs, 48 hrs, 72 and one week, respectively. An average mortality of red pumpkin beetle on first spray 32.59%, 22.79%, 39.65%, and 28.31%, for T1, T2, T3 and T4 were recorded, respectively. Maximum efficacy of different botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle on bitter gourd after 1st spray was examined for T3 (83.90%) followed by T4 (69.63%), T1 (56.92%), and T2 (47.29%).

Table 1. Effect of various botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) in Bitter gourd before and after 1st spray

Treatments	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment				Maximum efficacy %
		24 hrs	48 hrs	72 hrs	1 week	
T1	22.75	17.50 (32.59)	15.50 (46.26)	14.00 (56.92)	18.00 (53.36)	56.92
T2	21.25	18.75 (22.79)	17.00 (36.90)	16.00 (47.29)	22.00 (38.97)	47.29
T3	21.75	15.00 (39.65)	9.00 (67.36)	5.00 (83.90)	11.50 (68.83)	83.90
T4	20.75	17.00 (28.31)	12.00 (54.38)	9.00 (69.63)	15.00 (57.38)	69.63
T5	14.00	16.00	17.75	20.00	23.75	

S.E± = 1.4197
 LSD 0.05 = 2.8197
 F-Value = 7.45
 P-Value = 0.0000
 CV% = 27.36%

Effect of various botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle on bitter gourd before and after 2nd spray

It was observed that in (Table 2) data showed that pre-treatment count of red pumpkin beetle 26.00, 28.25, 27.50, 30.00 and 17.00adults /plot of bitter gourd were determined for T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5. In post-treatment data, average mortality of red pumpkin beetle was recorded as 20.85%, 42.88%, 59.55% and 48.09% on T1, 17.65%, 41.89%, 55.33% and 44.87% on T2, 44.68%, 68.73%, 89.80and 71.21% on T3, 40.35%, 63.52%, 80.72%and 65.82%against t4 post 241 hours, 481 hours, 721& one 7 days.

Averagely date rate of red pumpkin beetle in 2ndspray 20.85%, 17.65%, 44.68%, and 40.35%, for t1, t2, t3 & t4 were recorded. Highly effect of different botanicals & pesticides on red pumpkin beetle on bitter gourd after 2nd spray was recorded for t3 (89.80%) with t4 (80.72%), T1 (59.55%), and T2 (55.33%).

Overall average efficacy

The average effect of various botanicals and synthetic insecticides against red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) on Bitter gourd for two sprays was worked out and thus data (Table 3) indicated that among the insecticide, the highest average efficacy

(86.85%) was observed in case of T3 against red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*)

population followed by 75.17, 51.31 and 51.23 for T4, T2 and T1, respectively.

Table 2. Effect of various botanicals and synthetic insecticides on red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) on Bitter gourd before and after second spray

Treatments	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment				Maximum efficacy %
		24 hrs	48 hrs	72 hrs	1 week	
T1	26.00	23.00 (20.85)	19.00 (42.88)	15.00 (59.55)	26.00 (48.09)	59.55
T2	28.25	26.00 (17.65)	21.00 (41.89)	18.00 (55.33)	30.00 (44.87)	55.33
T3	27.50	17.00 (44.68)	11.00 (68.73)	4.00 (89.80)	15.25 (71.21)	89.80
T4	30.00	20.00 (40.35)	14.00 (63.52)	8.25 (80.72)	19.75 (65.82)	80.72
T5	17.00	19.00	21.75	24.25	32.75	

S.E± = 1.9444

LSD 0.05 = 3.8616

F-Value = 6.90

P-Value = 0.0001

CV% = 29.20%

Table 3. Overall average efficacy of insecticide against red pumpkin beetle (*Aulacophora foveicollis*) on Bitter gourd

Plant extracts	First spray	Second spray	Average
T1	56.92	59.55	51.23
T2	47.29	55.33	51.31
T3	83.90	89.80	86.85
T4	69.63	80.72	75.17

Red Pumpkin beetle is a key pest of bitter gourd and it has been reported as a destructive insect pest of cucurbitaceous vegetables, cucumber and melons. Red Pumpkin beetle is injurious to the crops in both larval and adult stages. Red pumpkin beetle is one of the most serious insect pests of cucurbit which losses 30-100% yield [12]. In this study it was observed that Melathion 250L/acre was recorded very effective against red pumpkin beetle followed by Imidachloprid. 250L/acre, neem oil 1L/acre and castor oil 1L/acre after first and second

spray. In third spray results were quite different, results of third spray showed that Imidachloprid was recorded most effective as compare to Melathion followed by castor and neem oil. Our results were more resembled with the results of [13] recommended different controlling measures against red pumpkin beetle which includes endrin 0.02% or Melathion 0.1% at 1000 L/ha or 5% dust of Melathion at 2 kg/ha. Furthermore [14] observed some plant products against red pumpkin beetle out of which Garomin (49.89) and Neem leaf extracts (20.16) were

examined very effective. [15] evaluated three different plant leaf extracts against red pumpkin beetle Neem, *Parthenium spp*, Eucalyptus and one chemical check, out of which chemical check and Parthenium were examined very effective. [16] resulted that Neem oil has better result than other botanicals against red pumpkin beetle and chemical treated plants were maximum mortality of red pumpkin beetle [17, 18]. Toxicity response of *M. azedarach* leaf extract demonstrated in present study against red pumpkin beetle adults were highly in consistent with the interpretations of various researchers who documented pesticidal activities of *M. azedarach* extracts against arthropod pests. Present studies can be compared to the studies of [19] tested three different concentrations (2.0, 1.0 and 0.5%) of carbaryl for the management of red pumpkin beetle and effect of insecticide was checked after three, five and seven days of application. [20] checked out the effect of carbaryl @ 0.2%, monocrotophos @ 0.54%, chlorpyrifos @ 0.05%, nimbecidine (a neem formulation) @ 0.2%, *Bacillus thuringiensis* @ 0.20%, thiodicarb @ 0.075%, Bt @ 0.1% + thiodicarb @ 0.0375%, nimbecidine + thiodicarb, spinosad at 0.015% for the management of red pumpkin beetle. Carbaryl (46.53% a.i.) was the most effective control measure in reducing the population and infestation of red pumpkin beetle. [21] checked out the effect of six treatments including, soil application + Furadan 5G @ 5 g/plant @ 3 days before planting, mechanical control + sweeping net @ 3 days interval for 45 days, spraying neem seed oil @ 10ml/l + 5ml trix (detergent) at 7 days interval, spraying neem seed kernel extract @ 50g/l of water at 7 days interval, seedling bed covered with mosquito net barrier up to 45 days old seedlings [22] surveyed red pumpkin beetle management practices and reported that cow dung and fly ash as control was used by 77.50% of people

followed by red chili powder (50%). The minimum used material was Kala maati by 25% by the local growers, [23] studied management of RP beetle using; mixture of carbaryl 110 % Wet able Power in pots before sowing, spray of carbaryl, dusting of ash mixed with kerosine oil and application of *Parthenium hysterophorus* plant extract, and [24] studied the effect of neem oil, mehagoni oil, bishkatali leaf extract, larvin 75 WP and diazinon 60 and their performance for the management of red pumpkin beetle.

Conclusions

By the application of Malathion 250 L/acre and Imidachloprid 250L/acre the population and damage of red pumpkin beetle was reduced. Plant products also showed the ability to repel and can reduce the damage the red pumpkin beetle. This study proved that red pumpkin beetle can be managed in field with some botanicals and synthetic insecticides. Even though, synthetic insecticides are well understood for controlling this pest but in this study some botanicals are also evaluated to control it, and they have shown a minimum mortality against red pumpkin beetle but keep them away from damaging the crop at least 1 week because of their repellence instead of synthetic insecticides. And it is also understood that botanicals are biodegradable and environmentally friendly then synthetic insecticides. It is recommended that the Malathion 250 L/acre and Imidacholroprid 250 L/acre can further be utilized as a tool for insect pest management especially against red pumpkin beetle in better gourd in rapid control. It is also recommended that botanicals have great extant of repellence for long term it may be evaluated for the controlling of red pumpkin beetle in for small stack holders.

Authors' contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: I Ahmed, SA Shahwani, MI Jakhro, A Hanan, MA Badini & K Jamil, Analyzed the Data: S

Ahmed & ZA Khetran, Contributed reagents/ Materials/ Analysis tools: N Ahmed & A Latif, Wrote the paper: S Ahmed & I Ahmed.

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