

## **Reviewer Details:**

**Name: N. Geetha**

**Department, University & Country Fiji**

**Assessment of botanicals against the Fruit borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) on Tomato**

### **ABSTRACT**

The experiment was conducted under the central farm of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka in order to assess the efficacy of six promising botanicals (of 50gm/L) against tomato fruit borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*). The botanicals assessed were neem leaf extract, Datura seed extract, Garlic bulb extract, Mahogany seed extract, Black pepper seed extract and Allamanda leaf extract. The lowest number of infested fruits in early, mid and late fruiting stages (2.67, 5.63 and 4.48 fruits plot<sup>-1</sup> respectively) were obtained from the plots that were treated with neem leaf extract (5 ml/L). The highest number of infested fruits were from control plots with 11.33, 16.28, and 13.55 fruits/plot obtained at early, mid and late fruiting stage respectively. Similarly, the highest yields of 2.45 kg/plot, 3.10 kg/plot and 2.91 kg/plot at early, mid and late fruiting stages respectively were obtained from the plots treated with neem leaf extract. Increase of weight over control were 75%, 55.78% and 88.96% at early, mid and late harvest respectively. Based on total yield obtained from three harvest (8.54kg/plot) compared to yield of control (5.03kg/plot) and lower toxicity to the environment as well as human being neem leaf extract was the most promising botanicals for the effective management of tomato fruit borer.

Key words: Tomato, Botanicals, Neem leaf extract, Fruit borer, Management.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In Bangladesh, the tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* L.) is cultivated in 73151.55 acres area with a production of 0.4 million metric ton [1]. The yields are low in comparison with other tomato-growing countries in the World [2] and [3]. Among the several factors contributing to the low tomato production in Bangladesh, insect pests are significant. This crop is mainly attacked by several pests such as tomato fruit borer, leaf miner, fruit worm, aphids, stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, hornworm

and whitefly. The tomato fruit borer, *Helicoverpa armigera* is highly destructive causing serious damage [4] and its incidences are impacted by the stage of the crop and the time of plantation [5]. A yield loss of 35% to 37.79% is attributed to *H. armigera* infestation [6]. Affected fruits have a low market value. Seed viability is also impacted due to the damage [7]. Tomato fruit borer is a polyphagous pest that has been reported from 181 cultivated and uncultivated plant species in India, distributed in 45 families [8]. The farmers of Bangladesh control this pest by the application of chemical insecticides and the presence of insecticide residues in market samples of tomato has been reported [9]. Bioregional insecticides are suggested to be an ecologically viable, alternate insect pest management strategy. Biorational or 'reduced risk' insecticides are natural compounds that effectively control insect pests, but have low toxicity to non-target organisms and the environment [10]. In Bangladesh, a few attempts have been made to evaluate botanical extracts against pests of tomato and brinjal [11,12].

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Experimental site**

This study was carried out in the central farm of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 during September 2019 to January 2020. The experimental site was situated at 23.074°N latitude and 90.0035°E longitude with an altitude of 8.2 meter from sea level. The experimental site is under the subtropical climate and its climatic conditions are characterized by low temperature and scanty rainfall during the winter (rabi season). Soil of the experimental site belongs to "The Modhupur Tract", AEZ-28.

### **2.2 Planting materials**

Seed material used for planting in this study were of the variety BARI Tomato-15, obtained from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gazipur.

### **2.3 Treatments of the experiment**

Seven treatments were applied in this experiment including control. All the treatments were applied three times, at early fruiting stage (40 days after transplant), mid fruiting stage (80 days after transplant) and late fruiting stage (100 days after transplant). **Preparation of botanical leaf extracts**  
Fresh leaves of neem, and Allamonda were collected from SAU campus, washed thoroughly with running tap water, and chopped with a knife. Four hundred milliliter of water was added with

chopped leaves and ground well with a blender to make it a suspension. The mixture was kept undisturbed overnight, filtered through fine cloth and poured into a volumetric flask (1L) and water was added to make the volume one liter.

### Preparation of seed extracts

Datura seeds, Garlic bulbs, Mahogany seeds, and blackpepper seeds were collected from Siddik bazar, Dhaka, washed thoroughly with running tap water till the adhered fruit particles were removed. Four hundred milliliter of water was added with seeds and ground well in a blender to make a suspension. The suspension was left undisturbed overnight, filtered through fine cloth and poured into a volumetric flask (1 L). Fresh water was added to make the volume one liter.

Table 1. List of botanicals and their doses

Treatment No.	Botanicals	Scientific name	Dose
T <sub>1</sub>	Neem leaf extract	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>2</sub>	Datura seed extract	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>3</sub>	Garlic bulb extract	<i>Allium sativum</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>4</sub>	Mahogany seed extract	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>5</sub>	Blackpepper seed extract	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>6</sub>	Allamonda leaf extract	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	50gm/L
T <sub>7</sub>	Control	Water	

### 2.4 Experimental design and layout

The treatment plots were arranged randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications. Each plot size was 3.6m×1.6m. The 4 week-old seedlings were transplanted to the field. Spacing between plants (50cm) and rows (75cm), inter cultural operations and fertilizer applications were followed as per recommendation of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI).

Total number of fruits and infested fruits of five randomly selected plants per plot were recorded at each harvest. Tomatoes exhibit synchronous maturity of fruits which means several

pickings are required to harvest. Three time harvest were done at early fruiting stage (40 days after transplant), mid fruiting stage (80 days after transplant) and late fruiting stage (100 days after transplant). Infested fruits recorded at each observation were pooled and finally expressed in percentage. The damaged fruits were spotted out by the presence of holes made by the larvae. Yield was calculated by pooling the weight of each harvest.

### **2.10 Statistical analysis**

The data obtained for different characters were statistically analyzed to find out the significance for different treatments. The analysis of variance was performed by using the STAT-10 Program. The significance of the difference among the treatments was estimated by Tukey's HSD Test at 5% level of probability.

## **2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Effect of botanicals on *H. armiger* during early fruiting stage**

Highest number of infested fruits (11.33/ plot) was obtained from control plots (untreated) which differed significantly from all other treatments (Table 2). The most effective botanical was Neem leaf extract with the lowest number of infested fruits (2.67 fruits/plot) obtained from T<sub>2</sub> which was significantly different from any other treatments in the experiment. Our results are concurring with previous studies. [13] reported that the lowest number of infested fruit (0.17) was obtained when the crop was treated with neem oil @ 3.0 ml of water at three days intervals. Satisfactory control of *H. armigera* on pigeon pea was obtained through application of neem oil [14]. Neemactin (0.00075%) and neem gold (0.00045%) were very effective in reducing larval population of *H. armigera* on tomato [15].

Highest number (48.33 fruits/plot) of healthy fruits was obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was significantly different from any other treatments in the experiment. This treatment showed 70.59% increase of healthy fruits over control treatment. Lowest number of healthy fruits (28.33 fruits/plot) was obtained from control treatment (untreated). Eventually, it showed significant variation from all other treatments of the present experiment. [13] reported that the highest yield (66.80 tonnes) was recorded when the crop was treated with neem oil @ 3.0 ml/L at three days intervals.

The yield of (2.45 kg/plot) of healthy fruits obtained from T<sub>1</sub> was the highest which was significantly different from all other treatments (Table 2). [16] also reported that Neem seed kernel extract (NSKE @ 5%) was found most effective in reducing the *H. armigera* population and pod

damage in chickpea. It was demonstrated that azadirachtin was effective systemically and when insects ingest azadirachtin and it had interrupt growth and development of insects.

**Table 2. Effect of botanicals against fruit borer at early fruit bearing stage of tomato**

Treatments	Number of infested fruit/plot	Decrease over control (%)	Number of healthy fruits/plot	Increase over control (%)	Weight(kg) of healthy fruits /plot	Increase over control (%)
Neem leaf extract (T <sub>1</sub> )	2.67 f	76.43	48.33 a	70.59	2.45 a	75.
Datura seed extract (T <sub>2</sub> )	9.67 b	14.65	34.00 e	20.01	1.65 e	17.86
Garlic bulb extract (T <sub>3</sub> )	8.33 c	26.47	37.33 d	31.76	1.8d	28.57
Mahogany seed extract (T <sub>4</sub> )	5.33 e	52.95	45.66 b	61.17	2.2b	57.14
Black pepper seed extract (T <sub>5</sub> )	6.67 d	41.12	42.66 c	50.58	2.0c	42.85
Allamonda leaf extract (T <sub>6</sub> )	10.33 b	8.82	31.66 e	11.75	1.5f	7.14
Untreated (T <sub>7</sub> )	11.33 a	-	28.33 f	-	1.4 f	-
LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	<b>1.23</b>	-	<b>2.54</b>	-	<b>0.12</b>	-
CV(%)	<b>11.48</b>	-	<b>13.74</b>	-	<b>13.66</b>	-

In a column means followed by similar letter (s) are statistically identical at 0.05 level of probability.

### 3.2 Effect of botanicals against *H.armigera* during mid fruiting stage

All treatments were better than control. The lowest number (5.63 fruits/plot) of infested fruit was obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was significantly different from all other treatments. Highest fruit infestation (16.28 /plot) was obtained from control plots (untreated) which was insignificantly different from T<sub>6</sub>. Highest number (63.32 fruits/plot) obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was significantly different from all other treatments. Lowest number of healthy fruits per plot (42.50 /plot) was obtained from control plots (Table 3).

**Table3. Effect of botanicals against fruit borer at mid fruit bearing stage of tomato**

Treatment	Number of infested fruits/plot	Decrease over control (%)	Number of healthy fruit /plot	Increase over control (%)	Weight(kg) of healthy fruits /plot	Increase over control (%)
Neem leaf extract (T <sub>1</sub> )	5.63 f	65.41	63.32 a	48.98	3.10 a	55.78
Datura seed extract (T <sub>2</sub> )	13.33 bc	18.12	46.67 e	9.81	2.18 e	9.04
Garlic bulb extract (T <sub>3</sub> )	12.23 cd	24.87	50.56 d	18.96	2.459 d	25.12
Mahogany seed extract (T <sub>4</sub> )	8.33 e	48.83	59.28 b	39.48	2.86 b	43.71
Blackpepper seed extract (T <sub>5</sub> )	10.67 d	34.45	54.68 c	28.65	2.61 c	30.65
Allamonda leaf extract (T <sub>6</sub> )	14.67 ab	9.88	44.21 f	4.02	2.11 e	6.03
Untreated (T <sub>7</sub> )	16.28 a	-	42.50 g	-	1.99 f	-
LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	<b>1.42</b>	-	<b>1.36</b>	-	<b>1.1777</b>	-
CV(%)	<b>6.99</b>	-	<b>9.08</b>	-	<b>12.67</b>	-

In a column means followed by similar letter (s) are statistically identical at 0.05 level of probability.

The highest yield (3.10 gm/plot) of healthy fruits obtained from T<sub>1</sub>, was significantly different from others treatments. This treatment showed 56.01% increase over control. Lowest weight of healthy fruits (1.99 gm/plot) was obtained from control (Table 3).

### 3.3 Effect of botanicals against *H.armigera* during late fruiting stage

At late fruit bearing stage, lowest number (4.48 fruits/plot) of infested fruits was obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was statistically similar to T<sub>4</sub> but different from all other treatments. T<sub>1</sub> showed 66.93% decrease of fruit infestation over control. Highest fruit infestation (13.55 / plot) was observed in control plots. All treatments performed better than con (Table 4).

Highest number (59.35fruits/plot) of healthy fruits was obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was significantly different from all other treatments and this was found to be 82.72% increase of healthy fruits over control. Lowest number of healthy fruits (32.48/plot) was obtained from control which was statistically different from all other treatments (Table 4). The highest weight (2.91 kg/plot) of healthy fruits obtained from T<sub>1</sub> which was significantly different from all other treatments. This treatment showed 88.96% increase of weight over control. Lowest weight of healthy fruits per plot (1.54 kg/ plot) was obtained from control plots (Table 4).[17]demonstrated 100% antifeedant, larvicidal and pupicidal activities of Neem gum nano formulation , a novel biopesticide prepared from the neem gum extract (*Azadirachta indica*) against *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hub.) and *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) at 100 ppm. [18] observed that Plant based biopesticides such as extracts of neem and eucalyptus are gaining increasing attention as potential alternatives to synthetic pesticides due to their reduced toxicity to non-target species and the environment. They evaluate the efficacy of ethanolic and aqueous extracts of neem (*Azadirachta indica*) as biopesticides against the brinjal fruit and shoot borer (BFSB) (*Leucinodes orbonalis*), a major pest of brinjal (eggplant) crop. The biopesticides were applied to brinjal fruit and their efficacy was evaluated by monitoring the mortality of BFSB larvae and pupae. The results showed that neem leaf extracts were effective in controlling BFSB larvae, a 5% concentration of ethanolic extracts of neem caused 82% mortality of BFSB larvae.

**Table 4.Effect of botanicals against fruit borer at late fruiting stage of tomato**

Treatment	Number of infested Fruit/plot	Decrease over control (%)	Number of healthy fruits/plot	Increase over control (%)	Weight (kg) of healthy fruits/plot	Increase over control (%)
Neem leaf extract (T <sub>1</sub> )	4.48 d	66.93	59.35 a	82.72	2.91 a	88.96
Datura seed extract (T <sub>2</sub> )	10.35 b	23.61	42.67 e	31.37	1.99 e	29.22
Garlic bulb extract(T <sub>3</sub> )	8.77 c	35.27	46.50 d	43.16	2.21 d	43.56
Mahogany seed extract (T <sub>4</sub> )	5.24 d	61.32	55.23 b	70.04	2.75 b	78.57
Black pepper seed extract (T <sub>5</sub> )	7.68 c	43.32	50.78 c	56.34	2.41 c	56.49
Allamondaleaf extract (T <sub>6</sub> )	11.72 b	13.50	37.34 f	14.96	1.73 f	10.38
Untreated (T <sub>7</sub> )	13.55 a	-	32.48 g	-	1.54 g	-
LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	<b>1.74</b>	-	<b>2.07</b>	-	<b>1.14</b>	-
CV(%)	<b>11.5</b>	-	<b>12.51</b>	-	<b>12.9</b>	-

In a column means followed by similar letter (s) are statistically identical at 0.05 level of probability.

## CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it may be concluded that, among the botanicals neem leaf extract @ 50gm/L gave the best performance and decrease 76.43%, 65.41% and 66.93% fruits infestation at early fruit stage, mid fruiting stage and late fruiting stage respectively. It can be concluded that neem extract could be a potent source to enhance protection from fruit borer and ultimately improve the productivity and quality of tomato.

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