

Eco-friendly Management of Mustard Sawfly *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) on Asalio (*Lepidium sativum*)

Abstract

The present research was under taken on the management of mustard sawfly, *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) on Asalio, *Lepidium sativum*. *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) (Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae) commonly known as mustard sawfly is a major pest of mustard. Seeds are used for recovery of chronic brochial asthma and enhancing milk yield in both animals and human beings. The field experiment was conducted with eight treatments and three replications with plot size of 3 m x 4 m with design RBD. The experiment was conducted during three years 2020-21 to 2022-23 during peak pest infestation on the crop Asalio, *Lepidium sativum* (Rabi season) at Central Campus, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. The pooled results of three years data i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 presented in the table 1. Observations on pre count was recorded and the pooled mean was ranged from 7.55 larvae per plant to 7.68 larvae per plant. Subsequently the observations were recorded at 3, 7 and 14 days after sprayings. From the three years pooled data, it was concluded that among all treatment tested the treatment *Beauveria bassiana* @ 5 g/lit was found statistically significant with minimum survival of larval pest population i.e. 2.66 larvae/plant after first spray and 0.91 larvae/plant after second spray with maximum seed yield 16.10 q/ha and maximum ICBR i.e. 1:12.17 and B:C ratio 2.13.

Keywords: *Lepidium sativum*, chronic brochial asthma, medicinal plant, folk medicine

Introduction

Senna, *Lepidium sativum* is an annual edible herb belonging to family Brassicaceae, it is also known as pepper cress, water cress or garden cress. It is native to West Asia and Europe (Gokavi *et al.*, 2004). It is an important medicinal plant from India. In India, its cultivation spread across the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in an area about 5000 hectares (Choudhary *et al.*, 2010). In India, entire area under garden cress is 8450 ha (Anon, 2014).

Plants are 45 to 60 cm tall, seeds have laxative and diuretic properties. The seeds mucilage is used to treat intestinal irritations (Singh *et al.*, 2003; Boina and Rajan, 2017; Singh *et al.*, 2024; Mwanika *et al.*, 2024). Leaves are useful for treatment of liver diseases and anaemia, propagation is done through seeds (Anon., 2019 DMAPR, Anand). It is reported to improve brain power. In folk medicine, it is used as a therapy for inflammatory diseases including diabetes, arthritis and hepatitis (Bigoniya and Shukla, 2014; Sakran *et al.*, 2014). It is used in preparation of medicines for asthma, cough, leprosy, skin disease, dysentery, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, lumbago, leucorrhoea, scurvy and seminal weakness (Kirtikar and Basu, 1933). Seeds are used for recovery of chronic bronchial asthma and enhancing milk yield in both animals and human beings (Srija *et al.*, 2024; Rajeshwari *et al.*, 2022).

Athalia lugens proxima (Klug) (Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae) commonly known as mustard sawfly is a major pest of mustard (Sharma *et al.*, 1992). It is also reported on garden cress (*Lepidium sativum*) (Anon., 2012-2013 DMAPR, Anand). Pest generally active during October to March. The pest attack causes severe defoliation resulting in huge loss in seed yield due to death of plants during early stages and sometimes re-sowing becomes necessary (Jagtap and Kadam, 1978).

Excess use of pesticides causes residue problems as well as soil pollution. Keeping this in view, research was undertaken on the management of mustard sawfly, *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) on Asalio, *Lepidium sativum*.

Material and Methods

The field experiment was conducted with eight treatments and three replications with plot size of 3 m x 4 m with design RBD. The experiment was conducted during three years 2020-21 to 2022-23 during peak pest infestation on the crop Asalio, *Lepidium sativum* (Rabi season) at Central Campus, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

Result and discussion

The pre-count of survival pest population was recorded one day before spraying and survival larval pest population were recorded at 3, 7 and 14 days after spraying. Two sprayings were given during conducting the experiment.

					DAS		control
1.	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @ 5 g/lit.	7.66 (2.85)	7.55 (2.83)	4.46 (2.22)	3.06 (1.88)	5.02	60.05
2.	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @ 5 g/lit.	7.63 (2.85)	7.51 (2.83)	3.98 (2.11)	2.66 (1.77)	4.71	65.13
3.	NSE 5%	7.55 (2.83)	6.45 (2.63)	5.76 (2.49)	5.50 (2.44)	5.90	27.15
4.	Neem oil 2%	7.65 (2.85)	6.25 (2.59)	5.24 (2.39)	4.57 (2.25)	5.35	40.36
5.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit.	7.55 (2.83)	4.90 (2.32)	3.63 (2.03)	3.39 (1.97)	3.97	55.09
6.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @ 5 g/lit.	7.67 (2.85)	4.99 (2.34)	3.70 (2.04)	3.44 (1.98)	4.04	55.14
7.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @ 5 g/lit.	7.66 (2.85)	5.00 (2.34)	3.68 (2.04)	3.43 (1.98)	4.03	55.22
8.	Untreated control	7.68 (2.86)	7.87 (2.89)	7.85 (2.88)	7.80 (2.87)	7.84	--
	S.E. ±	0.006	0.009	0.03	0.009		
	C.D. @ 5%	N.S.	0.03	0.10	0.03		

Figures in parenthesis are $\sqrt{X + 0.5}$ transformed values

Table 2. Management of Mustard sawfly, *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) on Asalio, *Lepidium sativum* by using bio-pesticides and plant products (Pooled mean 2020-21 to 2022-23)

Sr. No.	Treatments	Surviving larval population after II spray				Per cent pest control
		3 DAS	7 DAS	14 DAS	Mean	
1.	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @5 g/lit.	3.01 (1.87)	1.77 (1.50)	1.18 (1.31)	1.98	61.43
2.	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @5 g/lit.	2.61 (1.76)	1.38 (1.36)	0.91 (1.18)	1.63	65.78
3.	NSE 5%	4.67 (2.27)	4.15 (2.15)	3.99 (2.11)	4.27	27.45
4.	Neem oil 2%	3.74 (2.05)	3.05 (1.88)	2.73 (1.79)	3.17	40.16
5.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit.	2.22 (1.65)	1.62 (1.45)	1.54 (1.42)	1.79	54.57
6.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @ 5 g/lit.	3.04 (1.87)	1.92 (1.55)	1.41 (1.38)	2.12	59.01
7.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Beauveria</i> <i>bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1 x 10 ⁹) @5 g/lit.	2.98 (1.85)	1.79 (1.51)	1.26 (1.32)	2.01	63.26
8.	Untreated control	7.67 (2.85)	7.63 (2.83)	7.54 (2.82)	7.61	--
	S.E. ±	0.04	0.03	0.03		
	C.D. @ 5%	0.14	0.09	0.10		

Figures in parenthesis are $\sqrt{X + 0.5}$ transformed values

Table 3. Effect of bio-pesticides and plant products against Mustard sawfly, *Athalia lugens proxima* (Klug) on seed yield of Asalio, *Lepidium sativum*

Sr. No.	Treatments	Seed yield (q/ha)	Per cent increase in seed yield over control
1.	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	14.78	32.44
2.	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	16.09	44.18
3.	NSE 5%	12.15	8.87
4.	Neem oil 2%	12.74	14.16
5.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit.	16.42	47.13
6.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	15.04	34.77
7.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @5 g/lit.	15.74	41.04
8.	Untreated control	11.16	--
	S.E. \pm	0.45	
	C.D. @ 5%	1.36	

Table 4. Incremental cost benefit ratio of different treatments against Mustard sawfly

Sr. No.	Treatments	Yield (q/ha)	Additional yield over control (q/ha)	Additional income (Rs.)	Cost of plant protection (Rs.)	Net returns (Rs.)	Cost of cultivation (Rs.)	Gross monetary returns (Rs./ha)	Net monetary returns (Rs./ha)	B.C. ratio	ICBR
1.	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	14.79	3.63	29040	3000	26040	60485	118240	57755	1.95	1:8.68
2.	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	16.10	4.94	39520	3000	36520	60485	128720	68235	2.13	1:12.17
3.	NSE 5%	12.15	0.99	7920	2910	5010	60395	97200	36805	1.61	1:1.72
4.	Neem oil 2%	12.74	1.58	12640	8000	4640	64485	101920	37435	1.58	1:0.58
5.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit.	16.42	5.26	42080	8400	33680	65885	131360	65475	1.99	1:4.00
6.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	15.05	3.89	31120	5700	25420	63185	120320	57135	1.90	1:4.45
7.	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm @ 2 ml/lit. followed by <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> 1.15 WP (CFU 1×10^9) @ 5 g/lit.	15.75	4.59	36720	5700	31020	63185	125920	62735	1.99	1:5.44
8.	Untreated control	11.16	-	-	-	-	57485	89280	31795	1.55	

Labour charges @ Rs. 1000/ha, *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* @ Rs. 200/kg, Neem oil @ 300/lit, Neem powder @ Rs. 18.2/kg, Azadirachtin @ 3200/lit., Selling rate of Asalio @ Rs. 80/kg

Conclusion

From the three years pooled data, it was concluded that among all treatment tested the treatment *Beauveria bassiana* @ 5 g/lit was found statistically significant with minimum survival of larval pest population i.e. 2.66 larvae/plant after first spray and 0.91 larvae/plant after second spray with maximum seed yield 16.10 q/ha and maximum ICBR i.e. 1:12.17 and B:C ratio 2.13.

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