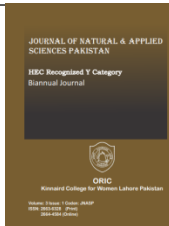




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NATURAL ENEMIES USED FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF MEALYBUGS *DROSICHA STEBBINGI GREEN* ON MULBERRY PLANTS

Khaliq Aman¹, Abdul Razaq¹, Saif-Ud-Din^{1,2*}, Maisoor Ahmed Nafees¹

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Karakoram International University Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.

²Department of Environmental Sciences, Karakoram International University Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.

Article Info

*Corresponding Author

Email: gltsaifuddin@gmail.com

Abstract

The present study was conducted in six selected areas of district Gilgit. During the survey, 350 mulberry plants were observed, out of which 329 (94%) were infected with Mealybugs. The highest prevalence of Mealybugs was recorded in Nagral (100%). For the Integrated Pest Management of mealybugs, biological control was used. Three biological agents (parasitoids) including the Lady Bird beetle (*Sumnius renardi* Weise), Common House Spider (*Parasteatoda tepidariorum*) and Wasp (*Anagyrus kamali*) were used. The highest mortality rate was recorded by using Ladybird beetle (*S. renardi weise*) with 93.17% *in vitro* and 84.32% in the field against mealy bugs. In the field, mortality ranged between 78.13-88.96% when exposed to Ladybird beetle, while the mortality rate for the common house spider ranged from 74.76 - 87.90%, whereas the wasp is accountable for a mortality rate from 69.73-81.60%. It is concluded the ladybird beetle is most effective. The integration of biological control methods, keeping in view the pest complex and the intensity of the damage in the research areas, show considerable mitigation of the pest population, coupled with fewer environmental hazards.

Keywords

Biological Control, Ladybird Beetle, Mealybugs, Parasitoids, Spider



1. Introduction

The mealybugs have an extended history as a significant insect pest type, taking attacked countless states of the biosphere. The genus *Maconellicoccus* has three designated species in southern Asia, well known as the area from the Indian section to Malaysia (Williams, 1996; Williams, 2004). Mealybugs are polyphagous insect pests, which nourishes on a wide diversity of significant plants species comprising but not limited to; coffee, guava, grape, peanuts, rose, beans, maize, sugar cane, soybean, cotton, and further fibre crops (Ranjan, 2006; Ujjan & Shahzad, 2007; Reddy *et al.*, 2009). The nourishing of *M. hirsutus* affects deformity of shoots and leaves supposed to be triggered by the inoculation of poisonous saliva. In addition to dropping the aesthetic vision of the plant, this distortion can also affect dropped crop yields and heavy invasions cause plant loss (Kairo *et al.*, 2000; Chong *et al.* 2008). To overcome these pests natural control is a vital element of the natural base of IPM, and functional biological control is between the pest-control tools accessible to farmers. In this circumstance, the safeguarding of the natural opponents of plant pests gives meaningfully to dropping insecticide practice and decreasing environmental impact; consequently, the balance of the soybean agroecosystem is improved

(Bueno *et al.*, 2009; Carmo *et al.*, 2010).

Biological control is the practice of the usage of a living creature to condense the population thickness of another biological control provided by these living creatures (jointly entitled as natural enemies) is particularly

significant for decreasing the number of pest insects and mites. Biological control is an ecologically sound and operative worth of decreasing or eliminating pests and pest invasion through the practice of natural opponents (Van Driesche, 2008).

In addition, the practice of further carefully selection of products to defend natural opponents and helpful insects through the integration of IPM, the further applicable practice of insecticides was pragmatic; farmers initiated considering the economic verges for pest control, which express the actual necessity for control (Stern *et al.*, 1959; Kogan *et al.*, 1977). Concern in biological control has augmented over recent years for various motives (Bailey *et al.*, 2009). Initially, better gratitude for environmental stewardship between regulators, farmers, and the community has endorsed the improvement of further sustainable farming practices. Second, quantities of arthropod pests have established resistance to one or more pesticides parting farmers to exploration for marginal controlling approaches (McCaffery, 1998).

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Research Site

The current research on Mealybug (*D. stebbingi*) was conducted at six locations of district Gilgit. The area was split into the different patches keeping in view the potential growth in the areas of major host plants i.e Mulberry. The partial work in vitro conditions was carried out at the Biological Sciences laboratory Karakorum International University Gilgit, Pakistan.

2.2 Research Design

Samples were collected seasonally from different Mulberry plants of six selected sites in Baseen village, Sonikote, Nagral, Sakarkoie, Danyore and Kashrote from District Gilgit Pakistan. Adult's samples of mealybugs were collected from the field from different host plants by cutting infected twig of 15 cm host plants with scissors and plant cutter. Mealybugs are collected directly from host plants with the help of a fine brush with care by avoiding damaging the soft body. These samples were placed in a cool box and the vial of alcohol or gathered samples into a dry container and labelled date, locality of sample and name of the host plants. Total 2012 samples were carried to the laboratory of Biological Sciences, Department Karakorum International University Gilgit, Pakistan for further study. In the laboratory, potatoes and honey were provided to mealybugs as a source of nutrients in a separate chamber. Rearing of adult insect was done in glass Petri dishes of 9 cm diameter containing fresh leaves of Mulberry. (Dreves & Walton, 2010)

2.3 Biological Control In In Vitro Environment

In this research wasp (*A. kamali*), Common House Spider (*P. tepidariorum*) and Ladybird beetle (*S. renardi weise*) were used as biological agents against Mealybugs (*D. stebbingi*). These biological agents were collected from the field by using a mosquito net very carefully. The numbers of mealybugs were noted before exposing in glass and Petrie dish cage by keeping a lid of the cage open and the mortality rate is regularly monitored.

(Tanwar *et al.*, 2007; Tanwar *et al.*, 2008; Hajer & Hrubá, 2007).

2.4 Biological Control in Field

In our study, biological agents were carried up to different patches of selected plants of the field. Before the ladybird beetle, common house spider, and wasp were exposed. To prevent further movement and mixing of mealybugs from other parts of the plant. The trunk and small twigs of Mulberry plants were labelled with engine oil up to one to two metres depending on plant height to determine the exact number of mealybugs in a specific region, and the number of mealybugs in a specific part of the plant was counted. Mulberry plants were divided into different patches, which were, not exposed to any insecticide was selected and exposed to 300 ladybird beetle, wasp and common house spider each. Biological control is the most insatiable phase on the field and is easily operated and familiarised in apple orchards. (Arnoldi *et al.*, 1992; Brodeur *et al.*, 1999; Chouinard *et al.*, 1999).

3. Results and Discussions

During the field survey 350 plants were observed from different locations of District Gilgit, and also observed that 329 plants of Mulberry were infected from mealybugs and the percentage prevalence of mealy bugs on the Mulberry plant is 94% in District Gilgit (Figure 1). During observation in field, it was noticed that in biological control of mealybugs, ladybird beetle is more effective among common house spider and wasp. Ladybird beetle decreases the infestation rate was ranged between 78.13-88.96%, the highest

was recorded at Sonikote and the lowest was perceived at Syedano Mahla, Danyore, while common house spider provides the mortality varied between 74.76-87.90%, the uppermost mortality was recorded at Warzaie Baseen and lowermost was observed at Paltani Mahla,

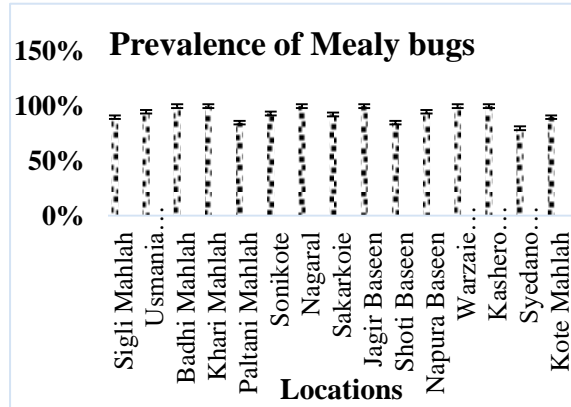


Figure 1: Prevalence of Mealybugs in Different Areas of District Gilgit on Mulberry Plants

Kashrote, whereas wasp is responsible for the mortality fluctuated among 69.73-81.60% (Figure 2). The maximum mortality was recorded at Syedano Mahla, Danyore and the minimum was observed at Napure, Baseen.

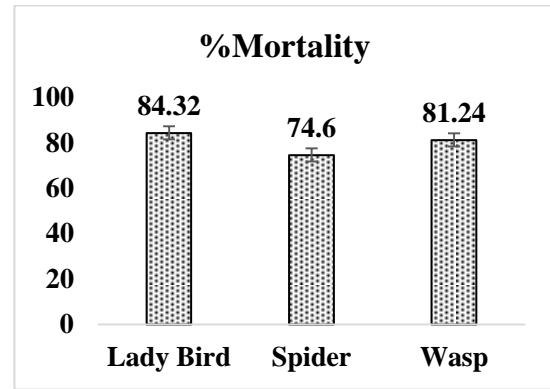


Figure 2: Comparative Mortality of Studied Pest In Mulberry Plant

Table 1: Biological Control of Mealy Bugs in Vitro Condition

| Name of Biological Agent | Cage 1 | | Cage 2 | | Cage 3 | | Total BE | Total AE | % Mortality |
|--------------------------|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|----------|----------|-------------|
| | BE | AE | BE | AE | BE | AE | | | |
| Lady Bird Beetle | 230 | 18 | 192 | 10 | 267 | 19 | 689 | 47 | 93.17 |
| House Spider | 223 | 33 | 176 | 28 | 240 | 35 | 639 | 96 | 84.97 |
| Wasp | 245 | 27 | 204 | 18 | 235 | 24 | 684 | 69 | 89.91 |
| Total | 698 | 78 | 572 | 56 | 742 | 78 | 2012 | 212 | 89.35 |

BE-Before Exposure, AE- After Exposure

Lady bird beetle was exposed to a total of 689 mealy bugs and achieved a mortality rate of 93.17%, common house spiders were exposed to 639 mealy bugs and achieved a mortality rate of 84.97% and wasp were exposed to 684 mealy bugs and achieved mortality rate of 89.91% (Table 1). All these mealybugs were reared in three different glass cages in vitro conditions. In an earlier study Hajer & Hruba,

(2007) performed their research work on the biological control of mealybugs *Planococcus citri* by using spider *A. tepidariorum* in Tokyo Japan (Table 3). They performed their research work in both green House and laboratories, have a common selection of Vitro and Vivo conditions for the IPM of mealy bugs.

Table 2: Biological Control Of Mealybugs in Field Though Ladybird Beetle (*S. Renardi Weise*)

| Location | Mealybugs Before Exposure | | | | | | Total | Mealybugs After Exposure | | | | | Total | % Mortality |
|--------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------------------------|------|------|------|-----|-------|-------------|
| | MP 1 | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | MP 1 | | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | | | |
| Sakarkoie | 33 | 67 | 32 | 64 | 61 | 257 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 44 | 82.88 | |
| Danyore | Kashero Mahla | 38 | 69 | 72 | 45 | 29 | 253 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 5 | 50 | 80.24 |
| | Syedano Mahla | 63 | 81 | 31 | 23 | 26 | 224 | 13 | 19 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 49 | 78.13 |
| Kashrote | Kote Khari Mahla | 28 | 34 | 51 | 64 | 29 | 206 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 37 | 82.04 |
| | Usmania Mahla | 26 | 28 | 38 | 49 | 50 | 191 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 30 | 84.29 |
| | Sigli Mahla | 60 | 91 | 37 | 16 | 22 | 226 | 9 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 39 | 82.74 |
| | Paltani Mahla | 27 | 34 | 49 | 17 | 37 | 164 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 85.37 |
| Nargal | 37 | 64 | 41 | 47 | 34 | 223 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 86.55 | |
| Sonikote | 29 | 47 | 43 | 16 | 28 | 163 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 88.96 | |
| Total | 360 | 532 | 428 | 367 | 345 | 2032 | 56 | 91 | 70 | 68 | 46 | 331 | 84.32 | |

MP-Mulberry Plants

Table 3: Biological Control of Mealybugs In The Field Though Common House Spider (*P. Tepidariorum*)

| Location | Mealybugs Before Exposure | | | | | | Total | Mealybugs After Exposure | | | | | Total | % Mortality |
|--------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------------------------|------|------|------|-----|-------|-------------|
| | MP 1 | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | MP 1 | | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | | | |
| Baseen | Warzaie | 46 | 28 | 56 | 46 | 34 | 210 | 11 | 7 | 16 | 8 | 11 | 53 | 74.76 |
| | Shoti | 28 | 29 | 43 | 58 | 40 | 198 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 10 | 48 | 75.75 |
| | Kote | 19 | 41 | 53 | 62 | 10 | 185 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 16 | 0 | 42 | 77.29 |
| | Napure | 74 | 58 | 14 | 38 | 20 | 204 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 44 | 78.43 |
| Sakarkoie | 39 | 85 | 61 | 42 | 34 | 261 | 6 | 17 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 45 | 82.75 | |
| Sonikote | 24 | 15 | 27 | 46 | 44 | 156 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 31 | 80.12 | |
| Nargal | 63 | 58 | 49 | 37 | 29 | 236 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 44 | 81.35 | |
| Kashrote | Sigli Mahla | 40 | 28 | 19 | 37 | 46 | 170 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 87.64 |
| | Khari Mahla | 40 | 39 | 37 | 48 | 49 | 213 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 86.38 |
| | Paltani Mahla | 38 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 37 | 124 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 87.90 |
| Total | 411 | 395 | 378 | 430 | 343 | 1957 | 74 | 76 | 75 | 88 | 59 | 372 | 81.24 | |

MP-Mulberry Plants

Table 4: Biological Control Of Mealybugs In The Field Though Wasp (*A. Kamali*)

| Location | No of Mealybugs Before Exposure | | | | | Total | No of Mealybugs After Exposure | | | | | Total | % Mortality | |
|----------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | MP1 | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | | MP 1 | MP 2 | MP 3 | MP 4 | MP 5 | | | |
| Danyore | Syedano Mahla | 32 | 19 | 66 | 34 | 34 | 185 | 11 | 6 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 56 | 69.73 |
| | Kashero Mahla | 31 | 42 | 61 | 71 | 11 | 216 | 9 | 13 | 16 | 18 | 6 | 62 | 71.29 |
| | Kote | 23 | 36 | 19 | 28 | 17 | 123 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 73.17 |
| Kashrote | Sigli Mahla | 47 | 64 | 34 | 26 | 28 | 199 | 12 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 48 | 75.87 |
| | Khari Mahla | 66 | 39 | 28 | 41 | 25 | 199 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 46 | 76.9 |
| | Paltani Mahla | 29 | 37 | 67 | 51 | 27 | 211 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 49 | 76.8 |
| Baseen | Usmania Mahla | 54 | 27 | 29 | 26 | 37 | 173 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 45 | 74 |
| | Warzaie | 24 | 19 | 46 | 37 | 39 | 165 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 45 | 72.7 |
| | Shoti | 50 | 32 | 39 | 51 | 48 | 220 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 58 | 73.6 |
| | Napure | 39 | 48 | 13 | 27 | 36 | 163 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 30 | 81.6 |
| | Total | 395 | 363 | 402 | 392 | 302 | 1854 | 99 | 99 | 96 | 92 | 86 | 2 | 74.6 |

MP-Mulberry Plants

Integrated pest management is an operative technique for handling pests (Abrol, 2013). Fortunately, there is increased responsiveness of the significance of biological control as a substitute to chemical control in crop production (Bompard *et al.*, 2013; Desneux *et al.*, 2010; Kleespies *et al.*, 2013; Ragsdale *et al.*, 2012). In the current study, 300 ladybird beetle (*S. renardi weise*) were exposed to the infected plants with mealybugs in different patches of Mulberry plants (Table 2). Before exposure, there were a total of 2032 mealybugs on Mulberry plants, but after exposure, the mealybugs decreased to 331 with a mortality rate of 84.32 per cent. In an earlier investigation, two species of ladybird *H. axyridis* and *C. septempunctata* was exposed to cope predominantly *A. gossypii* on strawberry

plants. The practice of eliminating ancient leaves from plants was valuable in handling little bulk populations. At great bulks, *H. axyridis* or *C. septempunctata* was free on leaves, flowers, and fruit (Valerio, 2007a). In an acquaintance investigation, the investigators exposed *C. septempunctata* to destroy *A. gossypii* and *Aphis craccivora* Koch on sweet pepper. (Valerio, 2007b)

Walton and Pringle, (2004) performed their research work on the survey of Mealybugs and Related Usual Enemies in Wineries in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. They also found the natural enemy of Anagyrus species along with many other species of natural enemies in the vineyard. They investigate parasitism among mealy bugs and different

species of *Anagyrus*. In the existing study used 300 common house spiders (*P. tepidariorum*) were exposed to the infected plants with mealybugs in different patches of Mulberry plants aged greater than 30 to 40 years. Before exposing a total of 1957 mealybugs were present on Mulberry plants and after exposing the mealybugs decreases up to 372 with a mortality rate of 81.24%. A nearly similar study was conducted on Mealybugs and associated natural enemies on 3 to 10 year-old Mulberry plants in the Nile Delta of Egypt. They recorded two arthropod classes i.e, Arachnida and Insecta both were very effective to control pests (Hendawy *et. al.*, 2013). Another related study of biological control of cotton mealy bugs by *A. tepidariorum* at different locations of Sindh province of Pakistan. They observed 25 plants randomly from 5 locations of the site. They reported predator was effective to control mealybugs (Sahito *et al.*, 2011).

The use of *Anagyrus kamali* is a suitable biological controlling method of mealybugs. In summer the population of *Anagyrus kamali* is high almost in all locations of the studied area (Table 4). William., *et al* (2006) investigate a classical biological control of mealybugs in southern California by using the same biological agent. They monitored parasitism in Mulberry plants among mealy bugs and *A. kamali* for about five years. Their control finding is approximately 95% within five years. They release 100–300 parasitoids at different locations with infested Mulberry plants in the Imperial

Valley of California. In the current exploration, 300 samples of Wasp (*A. kamali*) were exposed to the infected plants of mealy bugs in different patches of Mulberry plants. Before exposing a total of 1854 mealybugs were present on Mulberry plants and after exposing the mealybugs decreases up to 472 with a mortality rate of 74.6% within three weeks. A similar approach of biological control on mealybugs was initiated by Mani, (1989) in India on Vineyard. The target host was different but the basics to disseminate the predatory *A. kamali* was in closer agreement with the current biological control with a controlling a rate of 60-100% population of mealy bugs. Another familiar study was conducted by Sagarra. *et.al* .2000 in Canada. They used *A. kamalias* Biological agents against mealy bugs. They reared mealybugs in a Nylon Mesh cage and provided sprouted potato supported in a steel wireframe. They investigated larval and adult stages of mealybugs in a cage. They exposed three-week-old population mealybugs species present in a cage to 100 *A. kamali*.

4. Conclusion

The present study also showed that all biological agents could eliminate mealy bugs. Based on the current study it is concluded that the most commonly effective biological agent against mealybugs (*D. stebbingi*) is lady Bird (*S. renardi weise*) which more efficiently decreases the infestation of mealybugs 84.24% in the field and 93.17% in in-vitro conditions. Among all other fruit plants, the mealybugs are mostly the

destruction of Mulberry plants in Gilgit. Needed further studies to explore other natural enemies and to control the mealybugs infestation on mulberry plants.

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