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E-mail: [bjgir07@gmail.com](mailto:bjgir07@gmail.com)

## Suppression of dominant insect pests and yield of sesame with plant materials in different climatic conditions

K.N. Ahmed<sup>1</sup>, S. H. A. Pramanik<sup>2</sup>, M. Khatun<sup>2</sup>, M. R. Hasan<sup>1</sup>, L. C. Mohanta<sup>1</sup>, T. Hoq<sup>1</sup> and S. K. Ghose<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka

<sup>2</sup>BCSIR Laboratories, Rajshahi

<sup>3</sup>N.B. Degree College, Dhaka

### Abstract

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is an annual herb not extensively cultivated in Bangladesh. The jute hairy caterpillar, *Spilarctia* (= *Spilosoma*) *obliqua* (Walker) was found to attack the foliage including tender shoots of sesame in the Oilseeds Cultivation Centre of BCSIR Laboratory Campus, Rajshahi. The other pests encountered were pentatomid bugs, *Dolycoris indicus* (Stal) and *Nezara viridula* (L.), a chrysomelid beetle, *Apthona nigrilabris* (Duvivier), leaf sucking coleopteran beetle and *Monolepta signata* (Oliv.) The insect pests encountered in the Oilseeds Cultivation Centre, Patgram, Lalmonirhat were: a pyrrhocorid bug, *Dysdercus koenigii* Fab. and a pentatomid bug, *Piezodorus hyubneri* Gmelin (Fab.). The efficacy of five plant extracts or botanicals e.g., Bara Bishkatali (*Polygonum orientale* L.) leaf, custard apple (*Annona squamosa* L.) leaf, castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) seed oil and sesame oil (*Sesamum indicum*), a mixture of Neem (*Azadirachta indica* L.) seed oil and sesame oil have been evaluated for their pesticide action in the suppression of dominant insect pests of sesame. The treatment of custard apple leaf extract produced significant result in pest control and crop yield next to sesame oil. Other treatments also exhibited better results in comparison to the control. The yields were 858 and 642 kg per acre in the crop fields of Lalmonirhat and Rajshahi districts respectively.

**Keywords:** Sesame; Botanicals; Insect pest suppression; Yield; Climatic conditions

### Introduction

In Bangladesh, cultivation of sesame stands next to mustard. It is an annual herb, 1-2m tall producing capsules containing small black seeds. The seeds contain 45-55% protein. The oil is used for preparing salad, in soaps, paint, medicines perfumes and as a synergist for pyrethrum (Hill 1983). It can also be used in biscuits and cakes to make them palatable. The oil-cake of sesame is beneficial to health for bullocks and cows (Rikabder 1987). According to Dimetry and Fatma *et al.* (1997) sesame oil can be used as synergist against cowpea aphid, *Aphis craccivora* Koch.

In crop condition, sesame is attacked by a number of insect pests viz., the jute hairy caterpillar, *Spilarctica obliqua* (Walker), pentatomid bugs viz., *Nezara viridula* Fab., *Piezodorus hyubneri* Gmelin, a pyrrhocorid bug, *Dysdercus koenigii*, leaf sucking coleopteran, *Monolepta signata* and some unidentified hemipteran bugs and a tender stem sucking coleopteran beetle (Bundy *et al.* 2000, Ahmed 2002).

The present work deals with the suppression of the insect pests of sesame by spraying different potential plant extracts and their impact on yield in pre-harvest conditions.

### Materials and methods

In February 2011, Jamalpur variety of sesame seed collected from Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

(BADC) Regional Centre, Meherpur was sown in the Oilseeds Cultivation Centre, BCSIR Laboratory Campus, Rajshahi and Oilseeds Cultivation Centre, Patgram, Lalmonirhat. Five indigenous plant extracts or botanicals were selected for application against insect pest attack in sesame crops prior to outbreak of severe infestation. The names of these botanicals sprayed were: i) Bara Bishkatali (*Polygonum orientale* L.) leaf, ii) custard apple (*Annona squamosa* L.) leaf, iii) castor oil (*Ricinus communis* L.), iv) sesame oil (*Sesamum indicum* L.) and v) a mixture of Neem seed (*Azadirachta indica* L.) oil. These were sprayed in the western and northern Oilseeds cultivation Centres of Rajshahi and Lalmonirhat districts. The leaf extracts of above mentioned indigenous plants were used for spraying. Sesame fields of both the Centres were divided into six plots including control and above mentioned plant extracts were sprayed prior to pest out-break. Six plots were chalked out to render them fit for randomized block design. Different insect pests were collected fortnightly from different locations e.g., front, middle and rear portions of each plot randomly having infested sesame plants.

The different treatments were symbolized as follows:

- A control treatment
- B Bara Bishkatali leaf treatment
- C custard apple leaf treatment
- D castor oil treatment

E Neem seed oil and treatment

F Neem seed oil and Sesame oil treatment

The pests were collected in both the sesame fields of Patgram and Rajshahi at fortnightly. These were preserved in 80% ethanol. The status of pest occurrence in sesame crop fields before and after spraying was carefully recorded. The data on yield of seed per plant, plant height and number of seeds per plant were recorded. The impact of plant extracts on yield was predicated. The prevailing field temperatures and relative humidity in both the fields of sesame were also recorded.

### Results and discussion

Results on the influence of different plant extracts on the number and size of capsules (fruits) and yield per plant in BCSIR Lab Centre, Rajshahi and Patgram, Lalmonirhat centres are presented in the Table I. It is evident that variance ratio (F value) is significant at 1% level. It indicates that, there are remarkable effects of plant extracts on the size and number of fruits in sesame plants. The applied plant extracts exhibited its great impact on the size and number of pod (fruit) formation in sesame crop. The variance ratio, F- value was found to be 20.01 with significant P value ( $P < 0.001$ ). It reveals that indigenous plant extracts or botanicals produced significant results on the yield of sesame when sprayed on the sesame plants during cultivation.

During pest infestation in the BCSIR Laboratories Campus, Rajshahi, three plant extracts from plant source viz., custard apple leaf extract, Bara Bishkatali leaf extract and a mixture of Neem seed oil and sesame oil were applied. The insect-pests that attacked the sesame plants and the capsules (fruits) were collected and preserved in 80% ethanol with a drop of glycerine. The major insect pests recorded were: *Spilarctia*

*obliqua*, *Nezara viridula* and *Monolepta signata*. The maximum yield per plant of sesame was 21.4gm in the treatment of custard apple leaf extract. On the other hand, minimum yield of 5.9 gm was observed on Bara Bishkatali leaf extract (Table II). A maximum number of 163 pods per plant were produced in custard apple treatment whereas only 53 pods were observed in the treatment of Bara Bishkatali leaf extract. The yield of sesame was 16.0 maunds per acre.

The impacts of different plant extracts on the number of capsules and yield per sesame plant are shown in Table I. Duncan's New Multiple Range Test (DNMRT) was applied to show the significant differences among the means. *Spilosoma obliqua* (Walker) is a polyphagous pest that attacks a wide range of plants. The pentatomid stink bug, *Nezara viridula* occurred both in the sesame crop fields of Rajshahi and Patgram which sucked the tender shoots and destroyed the immature fruits. According to Bundy *et al.* (2000), *Nezara viridula* pierced the cotton bolls and destroyed the immature fruits. Another pentatomid bug, *Dolycoris indicus* also sucked the foliage and tender fruits in both the crop fields. However, Ahmed *et al.* (1989) recorded it as a pest of groundnut sucking the tender leaves and flower buds. In the sesame field of Patgram, Lalmonirhat, a pyrrhocorid stink bug named *Dysdercus koenigii* (Fab.) pierced the immature capsules (fruits) of sesame and this pest was not encountered in BCSIR Lab field, Rajshahi. According to Hill (1983), it is a serious pest of cotton bolls and also attacks many plants and trees including sorghum, and *Hibiscus* sp.

During present study, it is revealed that sandy and loamy soil of Patgram, Lalmonirhat Centre was suitable for sesame cultivation and enhanced production of its yield, Chauhan *et al.* (1999) reported that sesame can be sown as a rain-fed post-

**Table I. Effect of different botanicals on the yield of sesame in BCSIR and Lalmonirhat oilseed cultivation Centres**

Treatment	Centre	Mean $\pm$ S.E	
		No. of plot/plant	Yield of Sesame (g) per plant
A (Control)	BCSIR	87.5 $\pm$ 4.24a	8.68 $\pm$ 0.33a *
	Lalmonirhat	114.9 $\pm$ 21.96b	18.27 $\pm$ 5.78c
B (10% <i>Polygonum orientale</i> leaf)	BCSIR	79.81 $\pm$ 7.82a	8.82 $\pm$ 0.77a
	Lalmonirhat	79.9 $\pm$ 12.44a	12.67 $\pm$ 1.98b
C (10% <i>Annona squamosa</i> leaf)	BCSIR	131.8 $\pm$ 6.08c	17.23 $\pm$ 1.21c
	Lalmonirhat	146.6 $\pm$ 17.66d	23.31 $\pm$ 2.81db
D (10% <i>Ricinus communis</i> )	Lalmonirhat	83.2 $\pm$ 13.6a	13.20 $\pm$ 2.16b
E (10% Neem seed oil+Sesame seed oil) (10% <i>Azadirachta indica</i> )	Lalmonirhat	116.4 $\pm$ 18.96b	18.47 $\pm$ 3.04c
	BCSIR	98.3 $\pm$ 9.08b	11.6 $\pm$ 1.02b
	Lalmonirhat	94.6 $\pm$ 15.76b	15.01 $\pm$ 2.5c

\* The means followed by the same letter are not significantly different by Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

**Table II. Pest occurrence during the month February, March and April, 2001 in BCSIR and Lalmonirhat Oilseed Cultivation Centres under prevailing field conditions.**

Name of the insect pest	Order with family	Centre	Treatment	Pest status	Total nos. of insect pests collected in 3 months at fortnightly interval
1. <i>Spilosoma obliqua</i> (Walker)	Lepidoptera: Arctiidae	BCSIR	Control	1st instar larvae	250
		Lalmonirhat			180
		Do	B	Mature larvae	65
		Do	C	Mature Larvae and adult moth	40
		Do	D	Do	23
		Do	E	Do	12
		Do	F	Do	87
		Do			50
2. <i>Nezara viridula</i> (L.)	Hemiptera: Pentatomidae	Do	A	Adult	40
		Do	B	Do	55
		Do	C	Do	25
		Do	D	Do	20
		Do	E	Do	12
		Do	F	Do	15
		Do			48
		Do			35
3. <i>Aphthona nigrilabris</i> (Duvivier)	(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)	Do	A	Do	26
		Do	B	Do	23
		Do	C	Do	22
		Do	D	Do	25
		Do	E	Do	21
		Do	F	Do	21
		Do			43
		Do			35
4. <i>Dysdercus koenigii</i> (Fab.)	Hemiptera: Pyrrhocoridae	Do	A	Do	43
		Do	B	Do	68
		Do	C	Do	30
		Do	D	Do	48
		Do	E	Do	27
		Do	F	Do	20
		Do			40
		Do			52
			38		
			43		
			32		
			36		

**Table III. Temperature, relative humidity, rainfall etc. BCSIR and Lalmonirhat sesame cultivation centres under field conditions**

Months	Average Temperature		Relative Average humidity (%)		Rainfall		Weather condition	
	Rajshahi	Lalmonirhat	Rajshahi	Lalmonirhat	Rajshahi	Lalmonirhat	Rajshahi	Lalmonirhat
February	12.5	8.3	65	57	Nil	Nil	foggy	Heavy foggy
March	25	21	70	63	Nil	Nil	Mist	Heavy mist
April	28	23	80	75	Nil	Nil	Sunny	Cloudy

rice crop in farmer's fields. According to Khan *et al.* (1991), sesame crop sown during July exhibited maximum seed yield (1246.66 kg/ha) while 15th August sowing date showed maximum oil contents (54.8%). However, the nitrogen level favourably influenced the productivity of sesame in the present investigation. This finding complies with the view of Parihar *et al.* (1999).

According to Rahman *et al.* (2000), grated garlic and its volatile extract applied on brown rice showed a repellent effect but no insecticide activity against stored product pests, i.e., maize weevil and the red flour beetle. Tashiro *et al.* (1991) reported that alkaloid contents namely sesamin and sesamol of sesame break down into other substances prior to full maturity of the capsules. During present study, *Polygonum orientale* L. (Bara Bishkatali) leaf extract showed greater yield of 8.82±0.77 and 12.67 ±1.98 gm per sesame plant (Table I) in oil seed cultivation Centres of Rajshahi and Lalmonirhat respectively. Jena (2000) described that *Polygonum hydropiper* extract proved effective against rice pest, *Nilaparvata lugens* Stal.

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