

Joint action of microbial and chemical insecticides on *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera: noctuidae)

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Abstract

The evaluation of treatments in the control of *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) on groundnut under glasshouse conditions revealed that combinations of microbial pesticides (nuclear polyhedrosis virus @ 1×10^7 PIBs ml⁻¹, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* @ 1×10^8 spores ml⁻¹ and *Beauveria bassiana* @ 1×10^7 spores ml⁻¹) along with chemical insecticides (fenvelerate @ 0.005% and monocrotophos @ 0.025% i.e., half of the recommended dose) and microbial pesticides themselves were superior to either microbial pesticides or recommended rates of individual chemical insecticides alone. *B. thuringiensis* 1×10^7 spores ml + fenvelerate 0.005 per cent was proved as the best in respect of highest larval population reduction and lowest leaf damage (20.15 per cent). The highest pod yield (15.03 g pant⁻¹) was recorded with the same treatment (*B. thuringiensis* 1×10^7 spores ml⁻¹ + fenvelerate 0.005 percent).

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