EFFICACY OF THE ENTOMOPATHOGENIC FUNGUS Beauveria bassiana (Balsamo) AGAINST Tribolium confusum (Duval) ON STORED WHEAT FLOUR Hafez, S. F.

Dept. Plant Protection, Fac. Agric., Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

ABSTRACT

The red flour beetle, Tribolium confusum (Duval) adults were exposed to Beauveria bassiana (BIOVER®) conidia in six rates w/w (weight of B. bassiana conidial powder to weight of wheat flour) and compared to untreated. The effectiveness of B. bassiana on T. confusum parental adult mortality, F1 and F2 emerged adults, duration of life cycle and weight loss of wheat flour were evaluated. Results showed that gradual positive lethal effect on T. confusum adults (mortality increased as the rates of B. bassiana increased). There was a significant difference between the untreated and the treated in 7 and 14 days after exposure (P=0.041 and P=0.0015), respectively. There was an inverse relationship between progeny production of T. confusum and B. bassiana rate. Regardless to the B. bassiana rate a significant difference of F1 and F2 emerged adults was observed between the untreated and treated wheat flour averaged 204.33 & 126.33 and 57.28 & 24.22, respectively. Prolongation of T. confusum life cycle duration increased gradually as the rate of B. bassiana increased. The treatment with highest B. bassiana rate (1.0% w/w) significantly prolonged duration of the insect life-cycle (48.67 days) with about 7 days delay of duration compared to the duration of the insect life-cycle in the untreated averaged 41.0 days. There was a significant drop (P=0.0001) of the weight loss of treated wheat flour with highest B. bassiana rate compared to the untreated. Generally, B. bassiana may applied as an alternative to chemical control method in the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of stored product insect pests. Keywords: Beauveria bassiana, wheat flour, Tribolium confusum, biocontrol

INTRODUCTION

The red flour beetle, Tribolium confusum (Duval) is cosmopolitan and considered one of the major stored-product insects of sound and processed grains with high rate of movement among food patches (Ziegler 1976), (Campbell and Hagstrum, 2002). Significant losses were reported to be caused by this insect on grains and its by products throughout the world. The most frequent control measure of this insect and other stored-product insects is usually by fumigation of cereal-grain processing facilities (Tebbets et al. 1986) and (Zettler & Arthur 2000). Although of its effectiveness, some of the fumigants are considered by EPA (1993) as ozone-layer depleting substance so it is subjected to be prohibited or substituted with other substances. Insecticidal treatments with malathion (Arthur and Zettler 1991 and 1992), deltamethrin (Arthur, 1997), cyfluthrin (Arthur, 1994 and 1999), bioresmethrin (Ardley, 1976), and chlorpyrifos-methyl (LaHue, 1997) also gave good control of red flour beetles and other stored-product insects. However, the resistance to repeatedly applied insecticides and some fumigants such as phosphine has developed, in addition to appearance of environmental and human health

concerns as a result of insecticide application (Zettler, 2000; Arthur and Zettler, 1992). Heat treatment, controlled atmospheres, aeration and cooling technologies could be offered as alternative control measures of stored grain insects (Donahaye, 2000).

Until present, limited number of published articles on biocontrol of stored graininsects using entomopathogenic fungi are available. Entomopathogenic fungus; Beauveria bassiana, for example, has proven highly effective against the major stored grain insects: Sitophilus oryzae, Rhyzopertha dominica, and Tribolium castaneum (Padin et al. 1996 and Dal-Bello et al. 2001). In contrast, Metarhizium anisopliae has been less frequently reported for control of stored-grain insects although it has been used effectively to control other insects especially termites (Quarles, 1995). Mixtures of M. anisopliae conidial suspensions with those of B. bassiana have been reported to be used against S. oryzae on wheat grains. Various combinations of M. anisopliae conidia with four types of dust carriers were used effectively against S. oryzae infesting stored wheat grains (Batta, 2004). The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of the entomopathogenic fungus B. bassiana on the different biological of T. confusum.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Culturing of insects

Adults of *Tribolium confusum* were obtained from Plant Protection Research Institute, Agriculture research center, Dokky, Giza, Egypt. The adult beetles were introduced into wheat flour to which 5% yeast according to the rearing method of Park and Frank (1984). The emerging adults were transferred into another jar and reared in an environmental controlled condition at temperature 25°±1C and 60±5 RH%. Insect reared were placed in plastic cups (15 cm diameter and 20 cm deep). The cups were then covered with muslin or cheese-cloth fastened by a rubber-band to prevent the escape of insects and to ensure the proper ventilation. Newly emerged adult insects (males and females) obtained from the culture were used in the experiments.

Fungal treatments

The entomopathogenic fungus *B. bassiana* (BIOVER®) were obtained from the fungal culture produced by the bioinsecticides poroduction unit, Plant Protection Research Institute, Agriculture research center (ARC), Dokky, Giza, Egypt. The BIOVER® Biological insecticide produced in a rate of 32000 viabk spore/mg (10 % active ingredient and 90% inert ingredients). *B. bassiana* applied in rates of 0, 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 and 1.0% w/w (weight of *B. bassiana* and weight of wheat flour).

Bioassay

Six different fungal conidia rates of (BIOVER®) were mixed with 50 g wheat flour for each rate. Twenty newly emerged adults were introduced to each cup. The experiment was replicated three times, cups were kept under laboratory conditions of 25°±1C and 60±5 RH%. The bioassay was carried out to verify the adult mortality% after 7 and 14 days of exposure. Mortality assessment was then made by counting dead and living adult insects and percentage of adult mortality was calculated for treated and untreated wheat

flour. Adult emergence (Progeny emergence %) was determined by counting the number of all visible F1 and F2 adults found in wheat flour. Duration period evaluation of the treatment effect on life cycle of *T. confusum* was done by removing the surviving adult insects from cups in all replicates 21 days after the treatment. This time period is enough for egg deposition in all replicates. The plastic cups which represent the treatment replicates were then incubated under the laboratory conditions previously mentioned until adults emergence of the new generation. The duration of life cycle or time period needed for production of one generation of *T. confusum* for each treatment was calculated. The effect of the *B. bassiana* on the weight loss percentage of wheat flour was also determined after excluding all insect stages, frass and dust from the wheat flour. Percent of weight loss was calculated using weight loss% equation by Khare and Johari (1984).

Statistical analysis

The effects *B. bassiana* on *T. confusum* parental adult mortality, F1, F2 emerged adults, duration period and wheat flour weight loss were subjected to statistical analysis by Analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and using a computer software SAS (SAS Institute, 2000). Means were determined and compared by Duncan multiple range test at 0.05% probability level (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adult mortality:

Results in table (1) showed that B. bassiana caused a gradual positive lethal effect on T. confusum adults (mortality increased as rate of B. bassiana increased). There was a significant difference between the untreated and the treated in 7 and 14 days after exposure (P=0.041 and P=0.0015, respectively). The maximum percentage of adult mortality was achieved in the highest rate (1.0% w/w) averaged 30 and 58.33%, while the minimum percentage mortality was recorded in the lowest rate (0.1% w/w) averaged 6.66 and 16.66%, respectively, compare to 1.66 and 5% in the untreated. From these results it is obvious that the highest degree of mortality (58.33%) was achieved at the highest B. bassiana rate (1.0% w/w) after 14 days of exposure, this may be due to the latent effect of B. bassiana because conidia takes period to penetrate through spiracles and insect cuticle. Wakefield (2006) illustrated the mode of action of B. bassiana, and reported that contact of B. bassiana conidia on the insect surface produce germ tubes that grow over the surface of the insect cuticle until they contact an area of relative weakness where penetration can easily be achieved. Results agreed with Batta (2008) who cleared that adults with the formulated fungi resulted in a significantly higher mean mortality percentage compared to the treatment with the unformulated fungi. Treatments with a combination of fungal conidia mixture caused a significant high percentage of T. castaneum adult mortality averaged 53.3% (Batta and Abu Safieh 2005). Application of B. bassiana had a great impact on the adult of R. dominica that achieved a significantly high cumulative mortality percentage averaged 89.35% (Mahdneshin et al. 2009).

Table (1): Mortality percentage of *T. confusum* adults exposed to wheat flour treated with *B. bassiana*.

B. bassiana	Mortality %			
rate (w/w)	7d	14d		
0	1.66±0.58a	5.0±1c		
0.1	6.66±0.50ab	16.66±1.53bc		
0.3	6.66±0.58ab	20.0±2bc		
0.5	10.0±1.73ab	25.0±.2bc		
0.7	16.66±1.53abc	30.0±2abc		
0.9	23.33±2.08ab	38.33±2.08ab		
1	30.0±4.0d	58.33±2.65a		
P=0.05	0.041	0.0015		
F-Value	3.05	6.87		
LSD	3.54	3.42		

Means in a column with the same letter are not significantly different

Influence of B. bassiana on T. confusum progeny production:

Highly significant impact of *B. bassiana* was clearly effective in suppressing progeny production of *T. confusum* (P = 0.0001). A relatively high mean of 204.33 progeny of *T. confusum* produced on untreated wheat flour, while few numbers of F1 progeny emerged (23.33) were produced at the highest *B. bassiana* rate (1.0% w/w). Whereas, 103.0 adult progeny were observed at the lowest rate (0.1% w/w). There was an inverse relationship between progeny production and *B. bassiana* rate for *T. confusum* (number of F1 emerged adults were reduced as rate increased). Regardless to the *B. bassiana* rate a significant difference (P=0001) between the untreated and treated wheat flour was observed averaged 204.33 and 57.28, respectively (Table 3 and Figure 1). On the other hand, the second generation F2 of *T. confusum* progeny extremely affected by *B. bassiana* application compared to F1 progeny. Significant reduction (P=0.0001) was resulted in the highest *B. bassiana* rate (6.33 adult) compared to the untreated 126.33 adult (Table 2).

Table (2): Effect of *B. bassiana* on the mean number of F1, F2 progeny, duration period and percentage of wheat flour weight loss of *T. confusum*.

	r. oomasam.			
B. bassiana rate (w/w)	F1 Emerged adult	Duration Period	Weight loss %	F2 Emerged adult
0	204.33±7.77a	41.0±1.0a	50.15±4.36a	126.33±34.56a
0.1	103.0±12.04b	41.67±1.52a	39.07±4.25b	54.0±7.54b
0.3	80.673±5.51c	42.33±1.53ab	37.24±3.09b	36.33±11.50bc
0.5	53.33±11.59d	43.67±1.15ab	36.41±3.27b	29.33±4.69bcd
0.7	55.0±7.0cd	45.33±2.08bc	29.68±3.06c	11.33±4.0cd
0.9	28.33±3.5e	47.0±2.64cd	22.91±2.41d	8.0±2.41d
1	23.33±7.57e	48.67±1.53d	16.03±4.31e	6.33±2.08d
P=0.05	0.0001	0.0005	0.0001	0.0001
F-Value	166.39	8.38	28.46	25.89
LSD	14.61	3.01	6.39	25.22

Means in a column with the same letter are not significantly different

Furthermore, the reduction of F2 progeny may also due to the shortage of food in each container and the competition between the *T. confusum* individuals that represent a double impact on suppression of *T. confusum* population. This results are in agreement with the findings of Cherry *et al.* (2005) who indicated that *C. maculatus* exposed to wheat grains treated with *B. bassiana* reduced F1 emergence relative the untreated population. Batta (2005) reported that treated wheat kernels with the entomopathogenic fungi *M. anisopliae* reduced the emergence of F1 adults.

Influence of *B. bassiana* on duration period:

The treatment with B. bassiana showed a significant (P=0.0005) effect on duration of T. confusum life-cycle. As shown in table (2), the treatment with highest B. bassiana rate (1.0% w/w) significantly prolonged duration of the insect life-cycle (48.67 days) with about 7 days delay of duration compared to the duration of the insect life-cycle in the untreated averaged 41.0 days. Prolongation of *T. confusum* increased gradually as the rate of *B.* bassiana increased. Generally, duration period of T. confusum regardless to the B. bassiana rate was different in treated flour to that in untreated one (41.0 and 44.78 days), respectively (Table 3 and Figure 1). Results are in agreement with Batta and Abu Safieh (2005) who stated that significant longer durations of *T. castaneum* life-cycle were obtained after treatment with charcoal + fungal conidia (54.7 days) and chalk powder + fungal conidia (60.0 days) compared with treatments with charcoal and chalk powder alone (48.0 and 53.7 days, respectively). This demonstrates clearly the effect of treatment on retardation of the insect development by > 6 days. Also results strongly agreed with Batta (2005) who reported that the fungus delayed adult emergence of R. dominica by 8-12 days and gives promise for control with M. anisopliae mixed with wheat flour

Influence of B. bassiana on wheat flour weight loss percentage:

After seven weeks of *T. confusum* adults introduction the treatment with fungus led to decreasing in weight loss (P=0.0001) of the wheat flour compared to that untreated one. Wheat flour treated with highest *B. bassiana* rate (1.0% w/w) averaged 16.03% compared to (50.15%) in the untreated (Table 2). However, the lowest rate *B. bassiana* resulted in weight loss was (39.07%).

Table (3): General effect of *B. bassiana* on the F1 emerged adults (a), Duration period (b), wheat flour weight loss percentage (C) and F2 emerged adults (d) of *T. confusum* compared to the untreated.

Treatment	F1 emerged adults	Duration period (days)	Weight Loss %	F2 emerged adults
Untreated	204.33a	41.0a	50.15a	126.33a
Treated	57.278b	44.78a	30.22b	24.22b
P=0.05	0.0001	0.48	0.0057	0.0001
LSD	6.84	13.41	10.26	9.35

Means in a column with the same letter are not significantly different

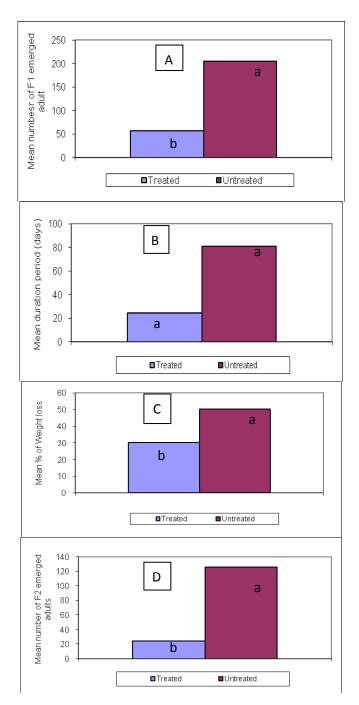


Figure (1): Overall effect of *B. bassiana* on the F1 emerged adults (A), Duration period (B), wheat flour weight loss percentage (C) and F2 emerged adults (D) of *T. confusum*.

These results indicated that *B. bassiana* has a potential effect as a bioagent on *T. confusum* feeding activity that resulted in reduction of wheat flour weight loss. In general, significant difference between the untreated and treated wheat flour was observed (P=0.0057) regardless to the *B. bassiana* rate averaged 50.15 and 30.22%, respectively (Table 3 and Figure 1).

Our results are in agreement with the finding of Padin *et al.* (2002) who indicated that percentage of treated wheat durum weight loss caused by *T. castaneum* feeding decreased by 81.5% and was significantly smaller than the loss from the untreated grain. Hendrawan and Ibrahim (2006) indicated that fungal formulations of *B. bassiana* in kaolin and talc provided better protection against the rice weevil by giving a reduced damage percentage significantly compared to the unformulated control.

REFERENCES

- Ardley, J. H., (1976). Synergized bioresmethrin as a potential protectant. J. Stored Prod. Res., Vol.12,p:253.
- Arthur, F. H., (1994). Residual efficacy of cyfluthrin emulsifiable concentrate and wettable powder formulations on porous concrete and on concrete sealed with commercial products prior to insecticide application. J. Stored Prod. Res., Vol.30, p:79.
- Arthur, F. H., (1997). Differential effectiveness of deltamethrin dust on wood, concrete, and tile surfaces against three stored-product beetles. J. Stored Prod. Res., Vol. 33.p:167.
- Arthur, F. H., (1999). Efficacy of cyfluthrin as a residual surface treatment on concrete against *Tribolium castaneum* and *T. confusum*. In: Zuxum, J., Quan L., Yongsheng, L., Xianchang T., Linaghua, G. (ed.), Proceedings of the Seventh International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection, Beijing, China, October 1998. Sichuan Publishing House of Science and Technology, chengdu, p 891(1999).
- Arthur, F. H., and J.L. Zettler, (1991). Malathion resistance in *Tribolium castaneum* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae): differences between discriminating concentrations by topical application and residual mortality on treated surfaces. J. Econ. Entomol., Vol. 84.p:721.
- Arthur, F.H., and J.L. Zettler, (1992). Malathion resistance in *Tribolium confusum* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae): correlating results from topical application with residual mortality on treated surface. J. Stored Prod. Res., Vol. 28.p:55.
- Batta, Y.A., (2004). Control of rice weevil (*Sitophillus oryzae* L., Coleoptera: Curculionidae) with various formulations of *Metarhizium anisopliae*. Crop Prot.,Vol.23. in press (2004).
- Batta, Y. A. (2005). Control of the lesser grain borer (*Rhyzopertha dominica* F., Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) by treatments with residual formulations of *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metch.) Sorokin (Deuteromycotina: Hyphomycetes). J. Stored Products Res. 41, 221-229.

- Batta, Y.A., and D. I. Abu Safieh (2005). A study of treatment effect with *Metarhizium anisopliae* and four types of dusts on wheat grain infestation with red flour beetles *Tribolium castaneum* herbs (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) J. Islamic Univ. Gaza, (Series of Natural Studies & Engineering), Vol.13, No.1, P.11-22.
- Batta, Y. A. (2008). Control of Main Stored-Grain Insects with New Formulations of Entomopathogenic Fungi in Diatomaceous Earth Dusts, International Journal of Food Engineering: 4: 1, Article 9.
- Campbell, J.F., and D.W. Hagstrum, (2002). Patch exploitation by *Tribolium castaneum*: movement patterns, distribution, and oviposition. J.Stored Prod. Res.,Vol.38,p:55.
- Cherry, A. J., P. Abalo and K. Hell, (2005). A laboratory assessment of the potential of different strains of the entomopathogenic fungi *Beauveria* bassiana (Balsamo) Vuillemin and *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metschnikoff) to control *Callosobruchus maculatus* (F.) (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) in stored cowpea. J. Stored Prod. Res., 41: 295-309.
- Dal-Bello, G., S.Padin, , C. Lopez-Lastra, and M Fabrizio, (2001). Laboratory evaluation of chemical-biological control of the rice weevil (*Sitophillus oryzae* L.) in stored grains. J. Stored Prod. Res., Vol. 37.p:77.
- Donahaye, E.J. (2000). Current status of non-residual control methods against stored product pests. Crop Prot., Vol. 19.p:571.
- Duncan, D. B., (1955). Multiple range and multiple F- test. Biometrics 11, 1-42. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), (1993). Regulatory action under the clean air act on methyl bromide. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Radiation, Strategic Protection Division, Washington, D.C.,p 10.
- Hendrawan, S. and Y. Ibrahim (2006). Effects of dust formulations of three entomophatogenic fungal isolates against *Sitophilus oryzae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in rice grain. J. Biosains, 17(1), 1-7.
- Khare, B. P. and R. K. Johari, (1984). Influence of phenptypic characters of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) cultivars on their susceptibility to *Callosobruchus chinensis* L. Legume Res., 7(1): 54-60.
- LaHue, D.W., (1997). Chlorpyrifos-methyl: doses that protect hard winter wheat against attack of stored grain insects. J. Econ. Entomol., Vol. 70.p:734.
- Mahdneshin Z., M. Hassan Safaralizadah and Y. Ghosta, (2009). Study on the Efficacy of Iranian Isolates of *Beauveria bassiana* (Balsamo) Vuillemin and *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metsch.) Sorokin Against *Rhyzopertha dominica* F. (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae). J. of Biol. Sci. 9(2): 170.174.
- Padin, S. B., G. M. Bello, A. L.Vasicek, and G. Dal-Bello, (1996). Bioinsecticide potential of entomopathogenic fungi for storedgrain pests. Revista de la Facultad de Agronomia Universidad de Buenos Aires ,Vol.15.p:1.
- Padín S., G. Dal Bello, and M. Fabrizio, (2002). Grain loss caused by *Tribolium* castaneum, *Sitophilus oryzae* and *Acanthoscelides obtectus* in stored durum wheat and beans treated with *Beauveria bassiana*, J. of Stored Prod. Res., 38: 169-74.
- Park, T. and M.B. Frank, (1984). The fecundity and development of the flour beetle, *Tribolium castaneum* and *Tribolium confusum* at three constant temperatures. Ecology, 29: 368–75.

- Quarles, W., (1995). New technologies for termite control. IPM Practitioner, Vol.17.p:1. SAS Institute, (2000). SAS/STAT Users guide, version 8. SAS Institute. Cary, NC.
- Tebbets, J. S., P. V. Vail, P. L. Hartsell, and H. O. Nelson, (1986). Dose response of codling moth (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) eggs and nondiapausing and diapausing larvae to fumigation with methyl bromide. J. Econ. Entomol., Vol.79.p:1039.
- Wakefield, M. E., (2006): Factors affecting storage insect susceptibility to the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. In 9th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection. Alternative Methods to Chemical Control 855-862.
- Ziegler, J. R., (1976). Evolution of the migration response: emigration by *Tribolium* and the influence of age. Evolution, Vol.30.p:579.
- Zettler, J. L., (2000). Chemical control of stored product insects with fumigants and residual treatments. Crop Prot., Vol. 19.p: 577.
- Zettler, J. L. and F. H. Arthur, (2000). Chemical control of stored product insects with fumigants and residual treatments. Crop Prot., Vol. 19.p: 577.

كفاءة الفطرالممرض (Beauveria bassiana (Balsamo) في مكافحة خنفساء الدقيق المتشابهة (Tribolium confusum (Duval) شريف فاروق حافظ

قسم وقاية النبات - كلية الزراعة - جامعة الأزهر - م. نصر - القاهرة

تم تعريض الحشرات البالغة لخنفساء الدقيق المتشابهة لست معدلات من مسحوق كونيديا الفطر والمنتج تجارياً باسم "BIOVER (وزن/وزن) وزن من مسحوق كونيديا الفطر إلى وزن من دقيق القمح مقارنة بالغير المعامل . وقد أجريت الدراسة لتقييم فاعلية الفطر الممرض على حشرة خنفساء الدقيق المتشابهة من حيث نسبة الموت في الآباء من الحشرات البالغة وعدد الحشرات البالغة الناتجة في الجيلين الأول والثاني وطول فترة دورة الحياة وكذلك الفقد في وزن الدقيق ، وقد أظهرت النتائج أنه توجد علاقة طردية موجبة تدريجية بين التأثير القاتل الحشرات البالغة وزيادة معدلات الفطر المختبرة . وكانت هناك فروقاً معنوية في نسبة الموت في الحشرات البالغة للآباء بين المعامل وغير المعامل بعد ٧ ، ١٤ يوم من التعريض للفطر الممرض . وجدت علاقة عكسية بين الذرية الناتجة من الحشرات البالغة ومعدل الفطر المميت، وبينت النتائج أن هناك فرقاً معنوياً بين أعداد حشرات الجيلين الأول والثاني في غير المعامل (٢٢٠٤٣) ٢٢٦،٣١) لكلاً من الجيلين الأول والثاني على التوالي ، وزيادة فترة دورة الحياة بشكل والمعامل (٢٤٠٥، ٢٤٤٢) لكلاً من الجيلين الأول والثاني على التوالي ، وزيادة فترة دورة الحياة بشكل تدريجي بزيادة معدلات الفطر المختبرة وكان أطول فترة لدورة الحياة قد تم تسجيلها عند أعلى معدل الفطر بمتوسط ٢٠٤٠، ٤٠ يوم وذلك بزيادة حوالي ٧ أيام في المعامل مقارنة بغير المعامل (٢١ يوم) . كان هناك انخفاضاً معنوياً في نسبة الفقد بالدقيق المعامل في المعدل الأعلى للفطر المميت مقارنة بغير المعامل ، وبوجه عام ، توصى تلك الدراسة بإمكانية استخدام الفطر B. bassiana كإحدى البدائل الأمنة بيئياً عن المكافحة المتكاملة وذلك بإدر اجها ضمن استر اتيجية المكافحة المتكاملة لأفات المنتجات المخزونة .

قام بتحكيم البحث

كلية الزراعة – جامعة المنصورة كلية الزراعة – جامعة الازهر أد / محمد السيد رجب أد / ابراهيم لبيب ابراهيم