Acta Scientific AGRICULTURE (ISSN: 2581-365X)

Volume 5 Issue 3 March 2021

Research Article

Management of Pink Bollworm *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) Using Mating Disruption Pheromone (PB Rope L) in Cotton

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Received: January 02, 2021

Published: February 15, 2021

Abstract

The efficacy of mating disruption pheromone (PB Rope L) was evaluated against pink bollworm *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) to monitoring pheromone traps catches as well as by sampling of bolls to record larval population and damage levels in cotton fields during *Kharif* 2016 and 2017, in north zone of India. This experiment was conducted in large plot in 10.0 ha and 4.0 ha area reserved as control. The main field T_1 and T_2 divided into two subplots T_1A and T_1B, T_2C and T_2D of equal size. In each of the subplots, six quadrates approximately 10x10 meter in the center at equal distance were marked. The treated fields were compared with control fields, three to four insecticides sprays in T_1A and T_1B, whereas 6 spray in T_2C and 9 sprays were applied in T_2D. The dispensers reduced pink bollworm catches in pheromone trap and reduced larval population and crop damage. Results showed that moth catches were highly suppressed in the treated fields by installation of the dispensers @ 685 PB Rope L at 50 days after crop sowing. Damage percentage was significantly reduced in treated fields as compared to control fields; Significant difference was observed in average seed cotton yield/ha. This study recommends the use of single application of pheromone dispenser at 50 days after crop sowing. These Rope were sufficient to maintain the moth catches and percent green boll infestation at the lowest level as compared to untreated field.

Keywords: Cotton; PB Rope L; Pink Bollworm; Mating Disruption

Introduction

Cotton is an important fiber crop of global significance, which is, cultivated in tropical and sub-tropical region of more than seventy countries in the world. It is the major cash crop of India and account 65 per cent of the fiber used in textile industry. Cotton plays a key role in the national economy in terms of both employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. This crop impacts the lives of an estimated 60 million people in India, including farmers who cultivate the crop and a legion of workers involved in the cotton industry from processing to trading. India has largest acreage (105 lakh ha) under cotton at global level and has the productivity of 568 kg Lint/ha and rank first in production (351 lakh bales) after

China during 2016-17. Cotton has been associated with as many as 1,326 insect pest species [10], however, the most serious one is mainly due to the damage of green bolls which caused by the cotton bollworms. Among them, the most important is pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) [3]. The pest attacks fruiting portion, flower and green bolls reducing both quality and quantity of harvested seed cotton by consign about 20.21 % losses in 1979 [1], similarly, about 50.47 and 36.63 per cent yield losses were reported due to pink bollworm in *Gossypium hirsutum* and *G. arborium,* respectively in Punjab [8]. However, in Gujarat and southern part (Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) of India pink bollworm infestation was noticed with increasing trend on non-Bt and Bt cotton in last decade. Manjunatha., *et al.* [18] reported lower percent of rosette flower (0.01 - 1.57%) in different Bt hybrids, survival of pink bollworm larvae, and damage ranged 0 - 80 percent reported on BG-II Bt hybrids in some districts of Gujarat [13].

In cotton the insecticide usage is very high accounting almost 22.50 per cent of total insecticide consumed worldwide. The major control method of cotton pests, especially the bollworm, is still depend upon chemical pesticides [19]. Indiscriminate use of pesticides often results creating new problem of pest resistance, new pest emergence and poor control due to their drastic effect on natural enemies, beside highly expensive and hazardous to human health and environment [5].

During last two decade developing alternate non-chemical technique, effective and ecofriendly to suppress pest incidence in cotton are essentially needed. Mating disruption technology was introduced to successfully manage the pink bollworm infestation by some advanced countries. The gossyplure has been extensively used for management of pink bollworm [12]. The efficacy of mating disruption by reducing of moth catching and percent boll damage in cotton has been confirmed in Greece with the application of PB Rope dispensers [16,17]. Different formulations of mating disruption pheromone introduced and evaluate and some of them were much improved in efficacy as compared to early formulations. Among them, shin-Estsu's formulation PB Rope L gave excellent and stable performance with longevity. PB Rope L (Pink Bollworm Rope Long) is a sex pheromone dispenser of pink bollworm contains ZZ/ZE-7, 11-hexadecadienyl acetate in two plastic tube (2 - 3 mm diameter and 20 cm long) which are attached together by both ends. Pheromone is released gradually in the environment through the wall of tube. It has better future in integrated management of cotton bollworm, particularly to pink bollworm in view of numerous advantages. This technology not only manage pink bollworm infestation as well as enhance the natural enemies' activities in cotton agro-ecosystem as a result, secondary pest also be suppressed.

Aim of the Study

The present study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of BP Rope L against pink bollworm with large-scale field trial at Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan, India during, *Kharif* 2016 and 2017.

Materials and Methods

Study location: This study was conducted in 14.0 hectare area, at Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) India, cultivated with American cotton variety MR-786 non-Bt, sown on 29th and 11th May in the both seasons 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively.

Treatment details: In each year, crop was raised in two isolated fields, having isolation distance of 1.0 km. The main field T1 was implemented with PB Rope L, in 10.0 ha and T2 about 4.0 ha area for control field. The main plots were divided into two subplots T_1A and T_1B, T_2C and T_2D of equal size (Table 1).

Main plot	Sub plot
PB Rope L (T_1)	T_1A: PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests
	T_1B: PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms
Control (T_2)	T_2C: Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests
	T_2D: FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest

Table 1: Treatment details.

Each subplot was demarcated into six quadrates approximately 10 x 10m in the center at equal distance for the sampling. Each quadrate was designated as one replication. All subplots were raised with uniform agronomic practices. Insecticides sprays were

applied to all the subplots as per the experiment requirement (ETL basis).

Pheromone traps were installed for *Pectinophora gossypiella* moth trapping in each quadrate on 9 July and 28 May in 2016 and 2017, respectively. The traps were fixed one foot above crop canopy and the lure changed at 15 days interval throughout the crop duration. Moth catches were recorded until harvest at twice in a week (Monday and Friday) from each treatment throughout the experimental period.

Details of the PB Rope L and its application: In T_1A and T_1B PB Rope L was fixed on 20 and 8 July in 2016 and 2017, respectively, using 685 dispensers/ha. The dispensers were made from Shin-Etsu Chemical Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan and likely to be introduced in India by PI Industries Ltd., Gurgaon. The length of each dispenser was 20 cm and 2.5 mm diameter contain 78 mg (AI) gossyplure (ZZ/ZE-7, 11-hexadecadienyl acetate). Dispensers were twisted by hand around the main stem above first or second pair of true leaves at the first pin square stage. The greater number of ropes at boarder towards windward side and lesser number PB Rope on opposite side while covering boundary of main plot. Single time application of PB Rope L was made during the cropping seasons.

Observation recorded: In addition, most preferred plant part i.e. green and open bolls were collected and examined carefully for the presence of pink bollworm larvae and associated damage *viz.* green boll, open boll, locule, seed and seed cotton respectively. Sampling started on 21 August in 2016 and 2017, respectively, and sample were taken at weekly interval from five spots, 20 samples were randomly collected from each quadrate per treatment.

The effect of PB Rope dispenser in reducing pink bollworm population were investigated by comparing moth catches in the treated and their respective control fields. The effect of the insecticides spray for sucking pest and sucking pests + bollworm on the efficacy of mating disruption was examined by comparing moth catches between the treated fields T_1A and T_1B and control fields T_2C and T_2D. Damage levels were compared between treated and control fields. The effect of spray for sucking pest and sucking pests + bollworm on efficacy of mating disruption was examined by comparing the percentage damage between the treated field T_1A and T_1B, control fields T_2C and T_2D, respectively. Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and data were arc sine or square root transformed before analysis. Mating disruption (%) was estimated using the formula: % Disruption = Control plot moth catches- Treated plot moth catches/Control plot moth Catches x 100 [7].

Results

Population monitoring

The main objective of the study was to estimate the mating disruption measured in terms of number of moths caught in pheromone traps or the damage to the green and open bolls. In both years, the number of moths caught in the traps were less in treated plots as compared to the control treatment. Mating disruption reached 77.42, 81.09 and 98.27, 99.46 per cent in the fields T1A and T1B, respectively during both the years.

In 2016, in the field treated with recommended molecule for sucking pests (T2C), trap catches were higher in last September, in early and last October and November (Figure 1a) and obtained its peak on October 10 (86.33), 30 (81.17) and November 6 (96.17 moths/trap/week), respectively. In the field treated with FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest (T2D), trap catches were higher in last September, in mid and last October and early and mid-November and peaked on October 10, 30 and November 6, 19 (94.33, 75.50, 87.67 and 80.33 moths/trap/week, respectively). Trap catches in the treated fields recorded below 25 moths/trap/week. The number of trap catches in the treated fields (T1A: PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests, T_1B: PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms) were found significantly less than that in the respective checks fields (T2C, T2D) ($F_{1,37}$ = 12.5663, P = 0.0011 and F_t = 4.1132 and $F_{1,37}$ = 11.8224, P = 0.0015 and F_t = 4.1132) (Figure 1a).

Similarly, in 2017, in the field treated with recommended molecule for sucking pests (T2C), trap catches were higher in last August, in early and last October and November (Figure 1b) and peaked on October 9, 24 and November 4, 11 reaching 32.00, 32.17, 67.50 and 80.33 moths/trap/week, respectively. In the field treated with FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest (T2D), trap catches were high in mid-September, last October and early November and peaked on October 24 and November 4, 11 (51.83, 69.83 and 66.50 moths/trap/week, respectively). Trap catches in the treated

Figure 1a: Week wise moth catches of pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) kharif-2016.

fields were observed below 2.33 moths/trap/week. The number of trap catches in the treated fields (T1A: PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests, T_1B: PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms) were found significantly less than that in the respective checks fields (T2C, T2D) ($F_{1,37}$ = 31.2095, P = 0.0001 and F_t = 4.1132 and $F_{1,37}$ = 40.033, P = 0.0001 and F_t = 4.1132) (Figure 1b).

Figure 1b: Week wise moth catches of pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) kharif-2017.

Larval population

In 2016, in the field treated with recommended molecule for sucking pests (T2C), larval population crossed ETL in last September, in October and November (Figure 2a) and peak occurrence recorded in October and mid-November, ranging 3.33 - 4.17 larvae/20 bolls, respectively. In the field treated with FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest (T2D), larval population were higher in October and mid-November and peaked activity reported in October and early November, ranging from 3.00 - 4.17 larvae/20 bolls, respectively. Larval population in the treated fields were reported below 1.83 larvae/20 bolls. The number of larvae in the treated fields (T1A: PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests, T_1B: PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms) were found significantly less than that in the respective checks fields (T2C, T2D) ($F_{1,37}$ = 4.2963, P = 0.0482 and F_t = 4.2252 and $F_{1,37}$ = 4.7737, P =0.0381 and F_t = 4.2252) (Figure 2a).

In 2017, in the field treated with recommended molecule for sucking pests (T2C), larval population crossed ETL in mid-September, in October and November (Figure 2a) and peak occurrence found in October and mid-November, ranging 3.33 - 4.67 larvae/20 bolls, respectively. In the field treated with FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest (T2D), larval population were higher in mid-September, in October and mid-November and peaked activity reported in October and early November, ranging from 3.17 - 4.83 larvae/20 bolls, respectively. Larval population in the treated fields were reported below 1.67 larvae/20 bolls. The number of larvae in the treated fields (T1A: PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests, T_1B: PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms) were found significantly less than that in the respective checks fields (T2C, T2D) ($F_{1,37}$ = 9.8406, P = 0.0042 and F_t = 4.2252 and $F_{1,37}$ = 11.1640, P = 0.0025 and F_t = 4.2252) (Figure 2b).

Figure 2a: Larval population of pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) in green bolls, Kharif-2016.

Figure 2b: Larval population of pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) in green bolls, Kharif-2017.

Figure 3a: Green boll damage due to pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), Kharif-2016.

Boll damage estimation

In both years, the damage (%) in the insecticide treated control fields T2C and T2D were significantly higher than the respective PB Rope + insecticides treated fields T1A and T1B ($F_{1,37}$ = 5.9946, P = 0.0248 and F_t = 4.2252 and $F_{1,37}$ = 8.3641, P = 0.0097 and F_t = 4.2252, $F_{1,37}$ = 36.4975, P = 0.0001 and F_t = 4.2252 and $F_{1,37}$ = 36.0652, P = 0.0001 and F_t = 4.2252, respectively).

In 2016, damage (%) in bolls in T_1A (PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests), T_1B (PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking pests and need based spray for bollworms) were lower and had peak on 17th October (14.33 %) and 29th September (12.33% boll damage), respectively (Figure 3a). In control field T_2C (Recommended molecule for sucking pests), T_2D (FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest) percentage of damage to bolls recorded relatively higher (10.33 - 30.67 and 11.00 - 28.00 %) from last September to early November and peak was observed on 10th (30.67 %) and 23rd October (28.00 % boll damage), respectively.

In 2017, relatively low percentage damage was recorded in T_1A (PB Rope L+ recommended molecule spray for sucking pests) and T_1B (PB Rope L+ Recommended molecule spray for sucking and need based spray for bollworms) with peak recorded on 9 October, 15.83 and 15.00%, respectively (Figure 3b). Percent damage in respective control field T_2C (Recommended molecule for sucking pests), T_2D (FSS to control any pests means current farmers practice to control bollworms as well as sucking pest) was relatively higher ranging 13.33 - 66.67 and 10.83 - 78.33% from mid-September to mid-November and peak recorded on 9th October, 66.67 and 78.33%, respectively. Relatively higher yield was reported from PB Rope treated fields (T_1A and T_1B) as compared to control fields (T_2C and T_2D) (Table 2).

Figure 3b: Green boll damage due to Pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), Kharif-2017.

Discussion

The studies conducted revealed during both years, the trend of moth catches was similar, whereas moth catches were comparatively higher in the first year (Figure 1). The findings of the study also recorded higher moth catches in last September, October and November, with peak during October and November in both years. Pink boll worm population density was higher in August and obtained its peak during September in Egypt and Pakistan [6,24] but in India, higher pink bollworm population was recorded in Novem-

No. of picking	Yield (q/ha)							
	2016				2017			
	T_1A	T_1B	T_2C	T_2D	T_1A	T_1B	T_2C	T_2D
1st	4.40	4.94	3.65	3.83	6.62	7.80	5.08	4.44
2nd	11.08	12.20	8.30	9.05	14.59	15.47	11.58	10.73
3rd	6.60	6.67	5.13	5.06	8.36	8.13	6.63	5.99
Total	22.08	23.81	17.08	17.94	29.57	31.40	23.29	21.16
F cal. Value	0.3574				0.5471			
P value	0.7849				0.6639			
F tab. Value	4.0662				4.0662			

Table 2: Impact of PB Rope L on seed cotton yield.

ber (45th SMW) [25], whereas two peaks (mid-April to mid-May and mid-October to December) of the pest was observed in Pakistan [2].

The main objective of the study was to disturb the orientation of male and significantly lower catches of *Pectinophora gossypiella* moth in pheromone traps in treated fields in 2016 and 2017 compared to control fields (Figure 1), indicted that mating disrupting pheromone application was very effective in reducing population of *Pectinophora gossypiella* in cotton fields, only three to four insecticides sprays in treated fields in comparison to seven and nine spray in control were applied. The lesser number of moths catches in PB Rope treated fields were reported by Lykouressis., *et al*. [16], Lykouressis., *et al*. [17] and Patil., *et al*. [22]. Very low number moth catches in PB Rope treated plots indicated the effectiveness of pheromone for male disorientation in the field, which resulted low mating success, reduced oviposition rate and larval development in the crop.

The results indicated that fixing of PB Rope in the fields, resulted into 75 to 100% mating disruption in case of pink bollworm during both years significant reduction in the percentage of green boll damage and number of larvae till harvesting. The damage (%) and larval infestation in control field was much higher than the treated fields and its picks was observed in October. Earlier studies carried out by Athanassiou., *et al*. [4], Lykouressis., *et al*. [16], Lykouressis., *et al*. [17], Patil., *et al*. [23] and Mohamed., *et al*. [20], also reported that moth catches, larval population and damage caused by pink boll worm was much lower in the treated field as compared to control fields. It is a positive indicator of effectiveness of pheromone application in the form of PB Rope and creating disturbance in communication between the male and female, leading to mating disruption. As a result, significantly higher cotton yield was recorded from treated fields as compared to control fields.

The application of pheromone dispenser depends upon the activity of pink bollworm at the respective location our results also indicate that the efficacy of the pheromone dispensers stretched about 120 days after application till the harvesting. Similar results were observed by Flint., *et al*. [9] where initial emission rate of pheromone decreased linearly during first 50 days after establishment, and was kept at constant level afterward, while half of pheromone was evaporated 60 days after implementation. In addition, Sohi., *et al*. [26] recorded 1.5 mg pheromone released per dispenser per day, which reduced 0.80 mg per day per dispenser after 90 days of installation. Papa., *et al*. [21] observed the efficiency of pheromone dispenser and found that the release period from dispenser was 120 days. Similarly, in the central Greece Lykouressis., *et al*. [17] found that pheromone dispenser significantly commits the mating disruption of *Pectinophora gossypiella* and effectively prevent the damage, when applied in early season, whereas damage level was not proportionately, reduced in relation to the reduction of trap catches. Sufficient gossyplure for reducing moth catches in the traps was in pheromone dispensers even 90 days in field.

The plots fixed with PB Rope were applied lesser number of insecticidal sprays in comparison to the control. Which eventually helped in conservation of natural enemies regulating the population of other cotton pest like whitefly, jassid and thrips during both the years. This is additional advantage with mating disruption technique in the form of conservation of natural enemies relatively higher number in this area on cotton [14,15]. This indirect effect of mating disruption also scores great value within the framework of pest management system in cotton and is one of the main advantages of this method [6,11].

Conclusion

This study revealed that the effectiveness of pheromone in the form of PB Rope in reducing pink boll worm catches and lowering the damage. This study recommended using single application of

pheromone dispenser (PB Rope L) at 50 days after crop sowing, plants was sufficient to maintain the moth catches and percent infestation in green boll at the lowest level as compared to untreated fields. Though damage level were not proportionally reduced as compared to the reduction of moth catches, so it is advisable to apply other control measure along with mating disruption pheromone. These results underline the importance of this method in pink bollworm management as part of IPM and conservation of natural enemies and reduction in insecticide load.

Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to AICRP cotton and PI Industries Ltd., Gurgaon (India) for providing financial assistance. We are also grateful to Director Research, Sawmi Keshwananad Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner and Zonal Director Research, Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar for providing this opportunity and support.

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