

Development Durations, Colonization and Insecticide Efficacy of Leaf Mite, *Oligonychus oryzae* Hirst on Rice

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ABSTRACT. *Oligonychus oryzae* is an economic mite pest infesting rice crops in India and other Asian countries. This study examined the duration of development instars at 20 °C – 35 °C, level of colonization of mites in eight commercial rice varieties viz., ADT 36, ADT 43, ADT 45, IR 50, CO 47, ASD 16, ADTRH 1 and TN 1 and assessment of efficacy of five insecticides against *O. oryzae* during 2005 and 2006. The duration of development from egg to adult lasted 8.33±0.20 days at 35 °C. ASD 16, ADTRH 1 and CO 47 were moderately resistant to leaf mite; ADT 45, TN 1, IR 50 and ADT 36 were moderately susceptible; ADT 43 was the most susceptible variety. Among the chemicals tested, Abamectin 1.8 EC was found to be the most effective.

INTRODUCTION

Rice, *Oryza sativa* L., supplies food for nearly half of the world's population. The crop is extensively cultivated in South and South East Asian countries. Rice crop is the foundation of national stability and economic growth in many developing countries including India. In India, the average productivity of rice is 2.11 tonnes per hectare (Viraktamath and Shobha 2008).

Among the arthropod pests, insects are considered as the major pest group threatening rice production. In recent years, mites have become a greater concern to the successful cultivation of rice in India, particularly South India. Among the mites, the rice leaf mite, *Oligonychus oryzae* Hirst (Acari: Tetranychidae) is the predominant species. *Oligonychus senegalensis* Gutierrez and Etienne is the most abundant leaf mite on rice in Senegal (Etienne, 1987). *Oligonychus pratensis* also feeds on rice, maize, sugarcane, sorghum and wheat (Gutierrez and Etienne, 1981). Mites of the genus *Oligonychus* are well-known as grass-feeders (Beard and Walter, 2001).

The occurrence of *O. oryzae* on rice was first reported from South India by Cherian (1931). Nagarajan (1957) reported this mite as a serious pest, causing considerable loss, but reported its incidence as sporadic. Occurrence, damage, bio-ecology, varietal screening and management aspects of this mite have been studied in India (Cherian, 1938; Misra and Israel, 1968; Rai *et al.*, 1977 and Karuppuchamy *et al.*, 1987). Mukherjee *et al.*, (1989) studied the relative incidence of *O. oryzae* on nine varieties of paddy and Karuppuchamy *et al.*, (1987) also reported the susceptibility of IR lines against *O. oryzae*.

In India, severe outbreak of this mite had been reported in Karnataka State (Rai *et al.*, 1977) and considerable yield loss was reported by Swamiappan (1986). Besides paddy, several weeds, in and around paddy fields, *Panicum coloratum* L., *P. crusgalli* (Cherian, 1938; Nagarajan, 1957), *Cyanodon dactylon* (L.) (Misra and Israel, 1968) and *Echinochloa colona* (L.) have been reported as alternate hosts for *O. oryzae*.

The occurrence of rice leaf mite appears to have increased greatly in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, when compared to insect pests in rice. In the absence of rain, prolonged dry climatic conditions provide a congenial atmosphere for the multiplication of mites. Even though studies were conducted in different parts of India, no detailed study was conducted on commercially cultivated varieties in Tamil Nadu. Hence, the objectives of this study were to examine the duration of development instars, level of colonization of mites in eight commercial rice varieties and assessment of efficacy of five acaricides against *O. oryzae*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Duration of development instars of *O. oryzae*

An experiment was conducted at five different temperatures (20, 25, 28, 30 and 35 °C) and 85% Relative Humidity, to study the biology of *O. oryzae* on the ADT 43 (ADT = Aduthurai) rice variety at the Acarology laboratory of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). Uninfested rice leaves, (25 day old plants) were cut into 4 cm length pieces and five such pieces were placed over filter paper kept on moist cotton in a petri dish (50 mm diameter). Five gravid females were released in each petri dish for egg laying and as soon as enough eggs were laid all females were removed. Thirty unhatched eggs were maintained in each dish for observation. There were five replications. Observations were made every 6 hours until all mites reached adulthood. Observations on per cent egg hatching, developmental periods and adult longevity were recorded. Data were subjected to a one-way analysis of variance and LSD was employed to separate the treatment means.

Varietal screening

A field experiment was conducted to study the relationship between the *O. oryzae* and relative tolerance (varietal susceptibility) of different commercially grown rice varieties *viz.*, ADT 36, ADT 43, ADT 45, IR 50, CO 47, ASD 16, TN 1 and ADTRH 1 from June 2006 to September 2006 *Kharif* season. The varieties were grown in 5 m long rows with spacing of 20 x 20 cm and were replicated thrice. Five rows were maintained in each variety. The susceptible check TN 1 was maintained after every 20 rows and along the borders to act as “infester rows” (natural infestation). No pesticide was used during crop growth. The mite population was recorded in 10 cm leaf length from nine plants at random in each replication on 40, 50 and 60 days after transplanting (DAT). In addition, leaf damage rating was also made during the last week when almost all the plants showed drying symptoms. For the assessment of leaf damage all the leaves on the selected plants were graded based on the rating scale adopted by Archer (1987), where grade or rating 1 = 1-10%, 2 = 11-20%, 3 = 21-30%, 4 = 31-40%, 5 = 41-50%, 6 = 51-60%, 7 = 61-70%, 8 = 71-80%, 9 = 81-90% and 10 = 91-100% (leaf area damage). The level of resistance was categorized as given in Table 1.

Table 1. Categorization of the level of resistance

Leaf damage percentage	Mean leaf damage rating	Level of resistance
0-40	1-4	Resistant (R)
41-60	> 4-6	Moderately Resistant (MR)
61-80	> 6-8	Moderately Susceptible (MS)
> 80	> 8	Susceptible (S)

The treatment mean values were compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) ($p=0.05$) (Duncan, 1951).

Morphological and physical studies

Based on the field screening, varieties representing Moderately Resistant (ASD 16 and CO 47), Moderately Susceptible (TN 1) and Susceptible (ADT 43) categories were selected to study the morphological and physical characters offering resistance. The morphological characters of paddy leaves such as length and width were measured in centimeters. Thin sections of leaves were examined under a microscope and number of veins was recorded. The interveinal distance was also measured.

Estimation of trichome density

The method described by Maite *et al.*, (1980) was followed to determine trichome density. Leaf samples were cut into 1 cm² pieces and heated in 20 ml of water in small glass vials for 15 min. in an incubator set at 85 °C. The water was then poured off and 20 ml of 96% ethyl alcohol was added. The samples were heated at 80 °C for 20 min. Fresh alcohol was added until all the chlorophyll was removed. Then, the leaf samples were heated at 85 °C by adding 90% concentrated lactic acid until the leaf segments were cleared. Later, the vials were cooled and stored for observation. The number of trichomes per cm² was counted under a compound microscope at 45 x magnification.

Efficacy of pesticides against rice mite

Two field experiments, one each during 2005 and 2006 *kharif* seasons were conducted to test the efficacy of four acaricides and a botanical against *O. oryzae*. The experiments were arranged as a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications and six treatments. The plot size was 5 x 4 m with 20 x 20 cm spacing. The acaricides *viz.*, Dicofol 18.5 EC (2.5 ml/ litre of water), Abamectin 1.8 EC (0.5 ml/l) and Fenazaquin 10 EC (1 ml/l) and one insecticide having acaricidal properties, profenofos 50 EC (2 ml/l), were compared with the botanical insecticide Econeem Plus (Azadirachtin) 1% (2 ml/l). Water spray was given in the untreated control. The predominantly grown rice variety, ADT 43, was used and the treatments were first sprayed on the 40 day-old transplanted crop. The second spraying was given 15 days after the first spray using a hand operated high volume knap-sack sprayer. Mite populations were counted using a hand lens (10 x). Nine hills from each plot were observed for the stages *viz.*, egg, nymph and adult mites per 10 cm leaf length. Three leaves were observed randomly from each hill. The observations on the density of leaf mite were recorded based on the number of eggs, nymph and adults present on the under surface of the leaves at 0, 3, 7, 10 and 15 days after each spraying. From the data, per cent reduction of mite population after treatment was calculated using the Henderson and Tilton (1955) formula and the data were analyzed. Data on yield parameters were also analyzed

statistically as per Gomez and Gomez (1984). The treatment means were compared using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) ($p=0.05$) (Duncan, 1951).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Duration of development instars of *O. oryzae*

Eggs of *O. oryzae* were minute, spherical or globular in shape and pale whitish-yellow. Eggs were deposited on the lower surface of the leaves. Freshly laid eggs were colourless or clear and later turned pale yellow. The incubation periods were significantly different among the temperatures tested. The longest incubation period was 6.3 ± 0.52 days at 20°C , where, only 2.58 and 2.61 days were required at 30 and 35°C , respectively (Table 2).

The newly hatched larva was white with four dark spots. The larvae were active for 2.3 - 3.3 days prior to entering Protonymph depending on temperature (Table 2). There was a significant difference in larval development times at 20, 25 and 28°C but no significant difference was detected between 30 and 35°C . The protonymph lasted 1.6 - 2.7 days (Table 2). The development time of protonymph decreased significantly with increasing temperature. Deutonymph period (1.81 - 3.8 days) was variable with the temperatures (Table 2). Total life cycle lasted for 16.1, 13.65, 8.88, 8.35 and 8.33 days at 20, 25, 28, 30 and 35°C . The adult females were light grayish-brown with four prominent dark black spots on the dorsal side and lived for 8.33 - 13.15 days. Males were slightly pinkish and lived for 5.05 to 9.53 days. The quiescent stage after each moult was brief. The total life cycle from egg to adult was short at 35°C (8.33 ± 0.20 days) (Table 2).

Table 2. Development time of *Oligonychus oryzae* on rice variety ADT 43 at different temperatures

Stage/Instar	Duration of developmental stages (Days) (Mean* \pm S.D.)					CD (0.05)
	20°C	25°C	28°C	30°C	35°C	
Egg	6.3 \pm 0.52 ^a	5.7 \pm 0.5 ^b	2.64 \pm 0.13 ^d	2.58 \pm 0.34 ^c	2.61 \pm 0.13 ^c	0.030
Larva	3.3 \pm 0.22 ^a	2.95 \pm 0.17 ^b	2.45 \pm 0.23 ^c	2.33 \pm 0.15 ^d	2.31 \pm 0.14 ^d	0.025
Protonymph	2.7 \pm 0.32 ^a	1.99 \pm 0.29 ^b	1.78 \pm 0.21 ^c	1.57 \pm 0.26 ^d	1.60 \pm 0.31 ^d	0.021
Deutonymph	3.8 \pm 0.43 ^a	3.01 \pm 0.20 ^b	2.01 \pm 0.15 ^b	1.87 \pm 0.15 ^d	1.81 \pm 0.21 ^d	0.025
Total duration	16.1 \pm 1.18 ^a	13.65 \pm 0.51 ^b	8.88 \pm 0.26 ^c	8.35 \pm 0.26 ^c	8.33 \pm 0.20 ^c	0.050
Adult female longevity	13.15 \pm 1.29 ^a	12.82 \pm 0.33 ^a	8.33 \pm 0.36 ^c	8.75 \pm 0.21 ^b	8.66 \pm 0.28 ^b	0.049
Adult male longevity	9.53 \pm 0.75 ^a	8.7 \pm 0.11 ^b	5.05 \pm 0.24 ^d	5.74 \pm 0.10 ^c	5.79 \pm 0.06 ^c	0.040

*Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 0.05 levels as determined by LSD.

The rate of development increased rapidly (35%) between 25 and 28°C , but slowly, between 20 and 25°C (15%). Moreover, approximately 39-42% of total life cycle was spent in the embryonic stage at 20 and 25°C as compared to 30-31% at other temperatures. This finding was similar to those for *Oligonychus perseae* Tuttle, Baker and Abbatiello (32-42%) at 25-30 $^\circ\text{C}$ (Aponte and McMurtry, 1997), *Schizotetranychus celarius* (Banks) (44%) at 25°C (Saito, 1979). Higher temperature is highly favourable for the multiplication of this mite. Higher temperatures are known to decrease the duration of the life cycle in several mite species (Sakunwarin *et al.*, 2003, Tanigoshi *et al.*, 1975).

Development time for completion of the life cycle of *O. oryzae* decreased significantly with increasing temperature. A similar result was reported in *Tetranychus truncates* Ehara, where the longest life cycle of 16.1 days at 20 °C and the shortest life cycle of 8.33 days at 35 °C (Sakunwarin *et al.*, 2003). The total development time of *O. oryzae* decreased over the temperature range of 20-35 °C. Similar results were given by Haque *et al.*, (2007) on *Oligonychus coffeae* (Nietner) and Sakunwarin *et al.*, (2003) on *T. truncatus*. Boudreaux (1963) mentioned that the development time decreased for each developmental stage as temperature increased and was common for tetranychid mites while the most rapid development of many spider mite species occurred between 20 and 29 °C which agreed with the results of this study.

Varietal screening

Among the varieties screened, ADTRH 1, CO 47 and ASD 16 were identified as moderately resistant and ADT 43 was the most susceptible. ADT 45, TN 1, IR 50 and ADT 36 were grouped under moderately susceptible (Table 3). No variety was found resistant against *O. oryzae*. The susceptible variety ADT 43 supported a maximum population of 99/10 cm compared with 60 in moderately resistant variety ADTRH 1. The susceptible check TN 1 was not found susceptible in this experiment. Since it recorded the damage rating of 7, it was classified under moderately susceptible.

Table 3. Mean mite population and damage rating in different rice varieties

Variety	Mite population*/10cm	Mean leaf damage rating	Level of resistance
ADT 36	89 ^{de}	7	MS
ADT 45	94 ^{ef}	8	MS
TN 1	81 ^{cd}	7	MS
CO 47	74 ^{bc}	5	MR
IR 50	90 ^{def}	7	MS
ASD 16	68 ^{ab}	5	MR
ADTRH 1	60 ^a	5	MR
ADT 43	99 ^f	9	S

CD (0.05) = 4.219; SEd. = 2.029; F value = 62.878

*Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 0.05 level as determined by LSD.

Morphological and physical studies

Leaf length ranged from 32±0.55 to 41±1.14 cm in all varieties and high in TN 1, ASD 16 followed by CO 47. Leaf width (9.5 ±0.17- 11.8±0.12 mm) and interveinal distance (1.0±0.07 - 1.4±0.16 mm) did not differ amongst varieties, there is no significant difference in interveinal distance of rice varieties.

Estimation of trichome density

The number of hairs did differ and correlated with resistant varieties. The moderately resistant varieties viz., ASD 16 and CO 47 had 48 ± 1.52 and 34 ± 0.95 hairs respectively. The most susceptible variety, ADT 43, had the lowest number of hairs (14 ± 0.89). Number of veins was also high in ASD 16 followed by CO 47. Therefore, high hair density and vein number has positive relationship with level of resistance to spider mite attack.

No published records regarding the physical basis of resistance of paddy varieties to *O. oryzae* were found. Indeed, Mukherjee *et al.*, (1989) found no influence of morphological and physical characters on the population of rice mites. However, for other crops and mite species, leaf thickness, hairiness and interveinal distance do play a significant role in relative abundance of mites (Santharam, 1976; Sithanatham and Velayutham, 1979) and the same results were found in this study.

Efficacy of pesticides against rice mite

Eggs of *O. oryzae*

Among the chemicals tested, Fenazaquin (1 mL/L) was found to be the most effective treatment against mite eggs with a cumulative mean reduction of 98.01 and 97.95% over control after two rounds of spraying during 2005 and 2006, respectively while the reduction in other treatments ranged from 64.86 - 94.89% after two sprayings during 2005. A similar trend was also observed during 2006 (Table 4).

Table 4. Bio-efficacy of pesticides against *Oligonychus oryzae* on rice (after two sprayings)

Treatments	Cumulative reduction (%)* - 2005		Cumulative reduction (%)* - 2006		Yield (t/ha.)	
	Eggs	Nymph and adult	Eggs	Nymph and adult	2005	2006
Dicofol 18.5 EC	75 ^d	72.82 ^d	69.53 ^d	62.83 ^d	3.85 ^{bc}	4.01 ^d
Abamectin 1.8 EC	82.45 ^c	80.30 ^c	89.03 ^a	90.22 ^a	4.68 ^a	4.77 ^b
Profenofos 50 EC	94.89 ^b	96.05 ^b	80.51 ^c	78.71 ^c	4.34 ^{ab}	4.29 ^c
Econeem plus (1%)	64.86 ^e	66.81 ^d	48.24 ^e	37.47 ^e	3.75 ^{cd}	3.70 ^e
Fenazaquin 10 EC	98.01 ^a	97.95 ^a	86.58 ^b	85.31 ^b	4.59 ^a	5.23 ^a
Control	-	-	-	-	3.34 ^d	3.25 ^f
CD (0.05)	3.924	3.858	1.858	1.820	0.060	0.030
SEd.	1.800	1.771	0.853	0.835	0.028	0.014
F value	89.96	97.64	321.74	531.97	-	-

*Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 0.05 level as determined by LSD.

Nymph and adults of *O. oryzae*

Abamectin 1.8 EC at 0.5 ml per litre was significantly superior to all other treatments and affected cumulative population reduction of 89.03 and 90.22% over control during 2005 and 2006 seasons, respectively, after two sprayings. This was followed by Fenazaquin (85.31-86.58%). In other treatments the per cent reduction ranged from 37.47 to 62.83. Application of Econeem Plus was not very effective in reducing the mite population (Table 4).

Dhar *et al.*, (2000) reported that spraying of Fenazaquin 10 EC (Magister) at 2 ml l⁻¹ and 1 ml l⁻¹; Fenpropathrin 10 EC (Dannitol) at 1 ml L⁻¹ and 0.5 ml L⁻¹ and Dicofol 18.5 EC (Colonel S) at 3 ml L⁻¹ were effective against the motile stages of red spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch. Ramalho *et al.*, (1986) reported that Dicofol 500 g a.i. ha⁻¹ and abamectin 10.8 g a.i. ha⁻¹ control the *T. urticae* efficiently. Jayachandran (2003) reported that spraying of Abamectin (Vertimec 1.8 EC) at 0.25 and 0.50 ml L⁻¹ was effective against *T. urticae* on rose. Dinesh (2004) found that Abamectin 0.0012% was more effective against *T. urticae* on okra.

The maximum yield was obtained from Abamectin treated plots (4.68 t ha⁻¹; and 4.77 t ha⁻¹) as against untreated check (3.34 t ha⁻¹ and 3.25 t ha⁻¹) which was 28 and 32% higher than the check during 2005 and 2006, respectively (Table 4).

CONCLUSIONS

Mean maximum temperature of 30 °C and 85% RH are highly favourable for the multiplication of rice mites under laboratory conditions at Coimbatore. The predominantly cultivated short duration rice variety ADT 43 was the most susceptible and ASD 16, CO 47 and ADTRH 1 were found moderately resistant to rice leaf mite. High hair density could provide moderate resistance to spider mite attack in moderately resistant varieties like ASD 16 and CO 47. Abamectin 1.8 EC at 0.5 ml L⁻¹ was significantly superior to all other treatments in reducing the mite population under field conditions with increased yield. Since the incidences of mites prevail from tillering to panicle initiation stages, there is a possibility of yield reduction due to the reduced photosynthetic activity of the plants. Hence, it is suggested to apply an effective acaricide to control the population build-up under favourable conditions to prevent yield loss and to sustain productivity.

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