

Bioefficacy and Residues of Insecticides in/on Fodder Cowpea in North Eastern Hills of India

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ABSTRACT

Endosulfan @0.05, 0.1 and 0.2% and Furadan 3G @ 1.5, 3.0 and 6.0g per meter length row were most effective against the flea beetles of fodder cowpea. Endosulfan was found to persist for longer period in mixed crop with maize in comparison to cowpea as a sole crop. The waiting periods varied from 2.90 to 23.50 days. Endosulfan was not to excrete in milk of dairy cows and eggs of poultry. The washing for 1-2 minutes removed the residues to the extent of 19.12 - 41.65 percent respectively. Carbofuran was found to be translocated in cowpea plants and was not found safe for use as fodder at intermittent cuttings.

Cowpea *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp is an important vegetable and fodder crop of North Eastern Hill region of India. At medium altitude hills of Meghalaya, it is severely damaged by flea beetles (*Chaetocnema basalis*, *Monolepta signata*). Besides, minor to medium damage is inflicted by aphids, jassids, white flies and grass hoppers which necessitates the protection of the crop from early vegetative stage. Endosulfan (Sagar and Ramzan, 1983) and Carbofuran (Faleiro *et al.*, 1985) have been used to combat the pest of cowpea. But the information is meagre on the dissipation and translocation of insecticides in high rainfall areas at medium altitude hills. Hence the investigation undertaken on bioefficacy, dissipation and translocation of insecticides in high rainfall area of Meghalaya.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiments were conducted in Kharif, at ICAR Research Complex farm, Barapani, Meghalaya (980 m, above msl). Cowpea cv. 'Pusa Barsaty' was sown in terraced land of watershed W-1 of Farming System Research Project, which was divided into equal plots of 30m². The crop was sown for fodder purpose. The cropping system included cowpea as a sole crop and as an inter-crop with maize.

The damage of flea beetles was noticed in the form of holes on leaves. These holes were recorded by counting 3 uppermost tender leaves per plant and 10 plants from each replication were taken. The first foliage spraying of endosulfan 0.05%, 0.1% and 0.2% was done on two and subsequent one month old crop sprayings after 25 and 58 days of 1st spraying. Furadan 3G @ 1.5g, 3.0g and 6.0g per meter length row was applied in the soil on one month old crop in cowpea intercropped with maize. Each treatment was replicated thrice in RBD.

For endosulfan residues the representative samples of 25g were extracted with 75ml of n-hexane by blending in mixer for 2 minutes. The clean-up procedure of Kathpal and Dewan (1975) was followed, while colorimetric method of Maitlen *et al.*, (1963) was used for residue determination. A regression equation ($y = 0.0058x + 0.0047$) was also set from standard curve to workout the residues from field samples. To study the effect of washing on removal the samples were washed in running water for 1 and 2 minutes. The endosulfan residues was also assessed in milk and eggs. The milch cows and layers were fed with contaminated fodder for 3 consecutive days and every following day the milk and egg samples were estimated for endosulfan residues. Carbofuran residues were extracted with acetone and determined by the method of Gupta and Dewan (1973). The regression equation ($y=0.006x + 0.008$) was used to calculate the residues. The half life was calculated by Hoskin's formula (1961). $T (BDL)$ by $\log \text{residues} \times 10^2$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bioefficacy of insecticides: It is evident from Table 1 that both the insecticides at all concentrations were most effective to reduce the damage of flea beetles in comparison to check. Further, it was seen that the different concentrations of insecticides did not differ significantly among themselves in efficacy suggesting that both the insecticides even at lower concentrations were equally effective. Endosulfan was found less deleterious to cowpea seedlings in comparison to other insecticides.

Extent of Residues

Endosulfan

Recovery: Endosulfan was recovered to the extent of 90.5 from cowpea which is fairly high and comparable to those reported by Awasthi *et al.*, (1974) on cauliflower and Prasad and Awasthi (1982) on various crops.

PERSISTENCE OF ENDOSULFAN IN MIXED CROP (COWPEA + MAIZE)

First spraying : The average deposits of 4.655, 6.724 and 8.793 ppm were obtained from endosulfan 0.05, 0.10 and 0.20% respectively (Table II). The deposits were reduced to the extent of 36.77 - 41.65% in one day, which further reduced to 98.83 - 99.27% in 15 - 23 days and after that the residues became below detectable level (BDL). The statistical treatment of data led to half life ($T_{0.5}$) value which varied from 2.47 to 4.78 days and time to reach tolerance level (T_{tol}) varied from 2.90 to 9.28 days and time to reach below detectable level (T_{BDL}) varied from 20.07 to 45.80 days.

Second spraying : The second spraying done after 25 days of first spraying resulted into deposits of 10.086, 14.741 and 19.397 ppm from the respective dosages which were reduced to the extent of 64.67 - 70.51% in 5 days and 98.76 - 99.15% in 18 - 30 days. The ($T_{0.5}$) varied from 2.84 to 5.68 days. (T_{tol}) 6.83 - 16.24 days and T_{BDL} 28.54 to 59.65 days (Table 12)

Third spraying : The third spraying done after 58 days of first spraying gave the cumu-

lative deposits of 18.879, 24.569 and 39.052 ppm on the day of spraying (Table 3). The reduction in residues after 3 days was found to be 43.71 - 49.31% which subsequently reduced to 98.69 - 99.66% in 25 - 35 days. The residues on 27 - 37 days were below detectable level. T (0.5) varied from 3.46 to 5.47 days, (T, tol) 11.29 - 23.50 days and T (BDL) 37.73 - 65.33 days.

Persistence of endosulfan in sole crop : The crop grown as sole crop was sprayed with endosulfan which resulted into residues of 15.259, 21.466, 36.466 ppm from the above same dosages. The reduction on third day was found to be 51.06 - 57.63% which further brought down to the level of 99.28 - 99.57% in 18 - 27 days and on the following day, the residues became BDL. The (T, 0.5) varied from 2.39 to 4.31 days, T (Tol) 7.18 - 16.92 days and T (BDL) 24.45 - 49.79 days.

It was observed that the sole crop got less deposits in comparison to mixed crop which could be attributed to less chances of drift being surrounded by a tall crop like maize while in sole crop there was no such barrier to check the drift. The persistence of insecticides was governed by the deposits, hence the higher deposits obtained in mixed crop persisted for longer duration. It was also noticed that with the increase in crop volume, the deposits also increased tremendously which also helped plants to receive higher amount of spray fluid. Pandey *et al.*, (1977 a & b) also obtained higher deposits of endosulfan in second spraying in comparison to first spraying on pea and Bengal gram. Hence, higher deposits persisted for longer duration than lower deposits. The amount of spray fluid required to full coverage point also varied from first spraying to third spraying. The first spraying required 800 l while second 1200 l and the third spraying required 1400 l/ha spray fluid. Endosulfan has been reported to persist almost to the same period on moong (Verma and Pant, 1976a), soybean (Dixit *et al.*, 1977) and pea (Pandey *et al.*, 1977a)

It is interesting to note that although the average maximum temperature, minimum temperature and relative humidity were almost the same, there was marked variation in T (0.5) and T (BDL) in different sprayings. However, there was marked difference in rain fall. During the dissipation period of first spraying the total rainfall was 217.5mm, 347.6mm in second and 837.5mm in third spraying, T (0.5) and T (BDL) were higher in third spraying, suggesting retarded dissipation of endosulfan from repeat applications. Dewan *et al.*, (1971) reported that oxidative reductive and hydrolytic biodegradation factors could become weakly operative in dissipating the residues from repeat application, which is in agreement with the present findings.

Effect of washing on removal : In first spraying the one minute washing removed residues to the extent of 19.12 - 30.55%, in second spraying 18.67 - 25.64% and in third spraying 19.87 - 24.66% while two minutes washing removed the residues to the tune of 27.94 - 41.65, 24.00 - 35.89 and 26.51 - 32.88% in the corresponding dosages. It is obvious from the Table 4 that the removal due to washing was more in first spraying in comparison to subsequent sprayings, indicating that some of the insecticide might have penetrated deep into the tissues which was not affected by extraneous washings. While washing reduced the residues 20-80% in moong and 53 - 71% in arhar (Verma and Pant 1976a). The difference could be due to different crops used in their experiments.

Excretion of insecticides in milk and egg : The milch cows were fed consecutively for 3 days with cowpea having the residues of 0.643 ppm after 30 days of third spraying. The next day milk was assessed for endosulfan which indicated the residues were below detectable level (BDL). The layer of "White Leg Horn" were fed with treated cowpea having residues of 0.643 ppm for 3 days consecutively. The next day eggs were analyzed for residues which indicated BDL. Beck *et al.*, (1966) also reported that the endosulfan residues were not detected (BDL) in milk from dairy cows when fed for 21 days on silage containing average residues of 0.41 - 2.35 ppm on forage.

Carbofuran : (Cowpea + Maize)

Recovery : Carbofuran was recovered to the extent of 90% from soil and 84% from plants. similar recoveries from soil and cowpea plants were also reported by Faleiro *et al.* (1985).

Persistence in soil : The initial deposits of 9.640, 22.04 and 28.04 ppm were obtained from soil incorporation of Furadan 3G @ 1.5g, 3.0g and 6.0g per meter row length respectively. The deposits became BDL in 63 - 100 days (Table 6). The T (0.5) ranged from 8.6 - 11.58 days and T (BDL) 69.09 - 105.00 days, similarly Faleiro *et al.*, (1985) reported T (0.5) 7 - 8 days in soil, (Table 5) . Naitam and Sukhani (1984) reported the loss of carbofuran 72 - 83% while in present study 97% reduction was obtained in 35 days exhibiting proximity in results.

Uptake and translocation in cowpea : Carbofuran was found to translocate from root to other plant parts also. Plants grown in treated soil were unsafe for cattle consumption as fodder at intermittent cuttings. (Table 6).

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Table 1. Field efficacy of insecticides against the flea beetles on cowpea

Treatment	Pre-treatment	I Spraying				II Spraying			
		Days after treatment				Mean holes/30 leaves			
		5	12	20	28	35	43		
Endosulfan (%)	26.0 (6.0)	5.7 (2.5)	3.7 (2.0)	1.7 (1.4)	3.0 (1.9)	2.7 (1.7)	1.0 (1.2)		
0.05									
0.10	19.0 (7.7)	2.3 (1.7)	3.3 (2.0)	1.3 (1.3)	3.0 (1.8)	3.0 (1.6)	0.7 (1.0)		
0.20	21.7 (8.5)	2.3 (1.5)	3.0 (1.9)	0.7 (1.0)	2.0 (1.6)	1.3 (1.3)	1.3 (1.3)		
Carbofuran (g)									
1.5	24.0 (8.4)	5.0 (2.3)	4.3 (2.2)	2.7 (1.7)	2.0 (1.5)	2.3 (1.6)	2.0 (1.6)		
3.0	19.3 (8.1)	4.0 (2.1)	3.0 (1.8)	2.3 (1.7)	2.0 (1.6)	2.3 (1.7)	2.0 (1.6)		
6.0	27.3 (8.6)	2.7 (1.7)	1.7 (1.7)	1.7 (1.4)	2.0 (1.5)	2.0 (1.5)	1.7 (1.4)		
Control	18.0 (8.3)	68.0 (8.2)	73.3 (8.6)	83.3 (9.1)	93.3 (9.7)	94.7 (9.8)	99.3 (10.0)		
SE (m) ±		± 0.46	± 0.36	± 0.40	± 0.28	± 0.37	± 0.27		
C.D. (P=0.05)		1.0	0.77	0.88	0.60	0.80	0.58		

Mean of 3 replications

Figures in parenthesis are \pm 0.05 values.

Table 2. Extent of residues of endosulfan on cowpea

Days after treatment

	II Spraying										
	I Spraying										
	0.05%		0.10%		0.20%		0.05%		0.10%		0.20%
Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res (ppm)	Red. (%)	Av. Res (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)
04.66		6.72		8.79		10.09		14.741		19.397	
1	2.72	41.7	4.01	40.4	5.56	36.8	*	*	*	*	*
3	1.98	57.4	3.02	55.1	4.40	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
5	1.29	72.2	2.15	68.0	3.36	61.7	2.97	4.78	70.5	6.85	64.7
7	0.60	87.1	1.29	80.8	2.33	73.5	1.68	2.97	83.3	4.53	76.7
10	0.32	93.1	0.97	85.6	1.88	78.7	1.12	2.16	88.9	3.36	82.7
15	0.03	99.3	0.59	91.3	1.41	83.9	0.43	1.29	95.7	2.15	88.9
18	BDL	100.0	0.24	96.4	0.98	88.8	0.09	0.95	99.2	1.81	90.7
21	-	-	BDL	100.0	0.52	94.1	BDL	0.71	100.0	1.48	92.3
23	-	-	-	-	0.10	98.8	-	0.32	-	1.10	94.3
25	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0	-	0.07	-	0.84	95.7
27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0	0.59	96.98
30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.24	98.8
32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0
T (0.5) days	2.47		4.24		4.78		2.84		4.01		5.68
T (tol) days	2.90		5.76		9.28		6.83		11.13		16.24
T (BDL) days 20.07			38.17		45.80		28.54		41.81		59.65

Regression equations $Y=2.6892-0.134X$ $Y=2.7102-0.071X$ $Y=2.3857-0.063X$ $Y=3.0252-0.106X$ $Y=3.1354-0.075X$ $Y=3.1615-0.053X$

Av. Res. = Average Residue; Red.=reduction; BDL=Below detectable Level; * = Sample not drawn

Meteorological data : Av. max. Temp. = 27.19°C; Av. Min. Temp. 21.53°C; Av. relative humidity=79.58%; Total rainfall=1402.6 m; (17.5.87 - 21.8.87) No. of rainy day 76 days.

Table 3. Effect of sole and mixed cropping on the persistence of endosulfan

Days after treatment	III Spraying (Sole crop)						III Spraying (Mixed with maize)					
	0.05%		0.10%		0.20%		0.05%		0.10%		0.20%	
	Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res (ppm)	Red (%)	Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Res (ppm)	Red (%)	Av Res. (ppm)	Red (%)
0	15.259		21.466		36.466		18.879		24.569		39.052	
3	6.466	57.6	10.086	53.0	17.845	51.1	9.569	49.3	13.190	46.3	21.983	43.7
7	1.940	87.3	3.750	82.5	7.112	80.5	3.879	79.5	5.948	75.8	11.121	71.5
10	1.121	92.7	2.500	88.4	5.086	86.1	2.457	87.0	4.257	82.7	8.405	78.5
15	0.259	98.3	1.121	94.8	3.190	91.3	1.164	93.8	2.716	89.0	6.078	84.4
18	0.065	99.6	0.711	96.7	1.875	94.7	0.776	95.9	2.004	91.8	5.086	87.0
21	BDL	100.0	0.323	98.5	0.358	96.3	0.431	97.7	1.638	93.3	4.224	89.2
23	-	-	0.155	99.3	0.983	97.3	0.194	99.0	1.358	94.5	3.427	91.2
25	-	-	BDL	100.0	0.586	98.4	0.065	99.7	1.099	95.5	2.651	93.2
27	-	-	-	-	0.241	99.3	BDL	100.0	0.711	97.1	1.875	95.2
30	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0	-	-	0.323	98.7	0.970	97.5
32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0	0.453	98.8
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.194	99.5
37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BDL	100.0
T (0.05) days	2.39		3.5		4.31		3.46		5.57		5.47	
T (tol) days	7.18		11.4		16.92		11.29		18.10		23.50	
T (BDL) days	25.45		38.16		49.79		37.73		60.71		65.33	

Regression equations $Y=2.2062-0.126X$ $Y=3.2814-0.086X$ $Y=3.4855-0.070X$

$Y=3.2824-0.087X$ $Y=3.2785-0.054X$ $Y=3.5933-0.055X$

Table 4. Effect of washing on zero day

Time	I Spraying					
	Endosulfan 0.05%		Endosulfan 0.10%		Endosulfan 0.20%	
	Av Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av Res. (ppm)	Red (%)	Av. Res. (ppm)	Red (%)
Deposit	4.655		6.724		8.793	
1 mt.	3.233	30.5	5.043	25.0	7.112	19.1
2 mt.	2.716	41.7	4.526	32.6	6.336	27.9
	II Spraying					
Deposit	10.086		14.741		19.397	
1 mt.	7.500	25.6	11.638	21.1	15.776	18.7
2 mt.	6.466	35.9	10.603	28.1	14.741	24.0
	III Spraying (Mixed with Maize)					
Deposit	18.879		24.569		39.052	
1 mt.	14.224	24.7	19.397	21.1	31.293	19.9
2 mt.	12.672	32.9	17.328	29.5	28.701	26.5
	III Spraying (Sole crop)					
Deposit	15.259		21.466		36.466	
1 mt.	11.638	23.7	16.810	21.7	28.701	21.3
2 mt.	10.086	33.9	15.259	28.9	26.638	27.0

Table 5. Degradation of carbofuran under the cover of cowpea + maize

Days after treatment	Doses					
	1.5 g/m		3.0 g/m		6.00/m	
	Residue (ppm)	Reduction (%)	Residue (pm)	Reduction (%)	Residue (ppm)	Reduction (%)
0	9.640	-	22.040	-	28.040	-
10	1.839	80.9	5.240	76.2	9.040	67.8
17	0.819	91.5	2.820	87.2	3.420	87.8
35	0.350	96.4	0.517	97.7	0.767	97.3
63	BDL	100.0	0.480	97.8	0.491	98.3
92	BDL	100.0	BDL	100.0	BDL	100.0
T (0.5) days	8.6		11.58		10.75	
T (BDL)	69.09		105.00		103.64	

Regression Equation $Y=2.719-0.035X$ $Y=3.0312-0.026X$ $Y=3.2028-0.028X$

Table 6. Uptake and translocation of carbofuran in cowpea plant

Days	Plant parts	Doses		
		1.5 g/m	3.0 g/m	6.0 g/m
17	Leaves and branches	BDL	1.279	2.879
35	Whole plant excluding roots	0.079	0.480	0.881
63	Leaves only	0.480	0.980	2.481
74	Whole plant	BDL	0.279	0.880