Zagazig J. Agric. Res., Vol. 34 No .(6) 2007 1145-1163

CONTROL OF THE COTTON WHITEFLY, *BEMISIA TABACI* (GENN.) ON SQUASH PLANTS

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Accepted 18/9/2007

ABSTRACT: The present work was carried out to evaluate some control practices such as resistant varieties of host plants, chemical and biological control against the cotton whitefly, *B. tabaci* on squash plants.

As for the resistant varieties, it was found that Eskandrani and Topkapl varieties were the most susceptible to infestation with this pest, while Arleka variety was the least one during the two successive seasons (1999 and 2000).

With respect to the efficiency of the tested pesticides against adults and nymphal stages of *B tabaci* , the results revealed that profenofos proved itself to be the highest effective compound against adult and nymphal stages on the three tested squash varieties followed by the mineral oil(KZ-Oil).

The biocide (Biofly) *Beauveria bassiana* recorded the least efficiency against the adult and nymphal stages of *B. tabaci* infesting the three squash verities.

It was found generally that insects reared on Arleka variety were the most susceptible to the all tested pesticides than that reared on the other two varieties (Eskandrani and Topkapl).

Key words: Efficiency insecticides, biocide, varieties, *B. tabaci*, squash plants.

INTRODUCTION

The cotton whitefly , *B. tabaci* is one of the major insect pests attacking many vegetable crops specially cucurbits. Nili plantations are more liable to suffer this pest, it cause direct damage by sucking juice and indirect damage by excretion honey dew which interfere with the photosynthetic process reducing crop development and decreasing the yield. This insect is considered also one of the most known insects which transmit plant viral diseases .

Numerous studies have been done on whitefly control by many authors such as: Abdallah *et al.*