

CONTROL OF THE GREATER DATE MOTH, *ARENIPSES SABELLA* HMPSON (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) AT THE NEW VALLEY-EGYPT

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Abstract

Two seasons of field trials were conducted to investigate the efficacy of certain insecticides and bio-insecticides against the greater date moth, *Arenipses sabella* Hmpson (Lepidoptera: Pyralida) at El-Kharga oasis, New Valley, Egypt in 2006/ 2007 and 2007/ 2008. The high effects against *A. sabella* among the tested compounds were recorded in case of the treatment of date palm with Proclaim 05 SG (20 gm/ 100L water) and Deltachem super 2.6 EC (50 ml /100L water) during the two seasons. The treatment with Proclaim twice during 1 and 22 November of 2006 reduced the rate of bunches infestation by the pest to 85.48% in 2007 season. During 2008 season, application with Deltachem super during 1 and 22 November of 2007 reduced the level of infestation by the greater date moth pest to 75.74%.

INTRODUCTION

Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) is considered one of the most important cash crops in New Valley Governorate. In this Governorate more than one million date palm trees are grown. Besides the local consumption, dates are also exported to foreign countries.

The lesser date moth *Batrachedra amydraula* Meyrick, the pomegranate, *Viracola livia* Klug and the almond moth *Cadra* spp. are considered the most economically important insect pests attacking date palm trees in this area (Saleh, 1974, Temerak and Sayed 1995, Sayed and El-Deeb 1996, Sayed *et al.*, 2001).

Arenipses sabella (Lepidoptera: pyralidae) is an early season pest. Spathes, bunches and fruit stalks were attacked in March and early April, and infestation was high at the end of April. When the larvae infested at the later stage of growth, bunch bases broken and caused superficial damage to fruits and affected its quality. This usually happens during August such bunches are heavy enough and then these infested bunches were unable to bear their weight. Two generations per year were recorded (Saleh, 1974, Ali *et al.*, 1988 and Abdel-Rahman *et al.*, 2007).

Recently, *A. sabella* became a major pest attacks the date palm trees in the New Valley. Little information were available in the literature concerning to control of *A. sabella*. Therefore, the present study was conducted to evaluate certain insecticides and bio- insecticides against this pest.