

DISRUPTION OF REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTION AS A CONTROL STRATEGY FOR *O. LONGICOLLIS*,
PEST OF BANANA USING BOTANICALS, A SOURCE OF BIOPESTICIDE

Leenamma Joseph, Associate Professor of Zoology, Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram

E Mail: Leenamma.joseph@mic.ac.in

Abstract

Banana plantations are adversely affected and its yield is much reduced by the attack of Banana Stem Borer (BSW), *Odoiporus longicollis*. Many works were carried out to control this pest in the field. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram has developed a Botanical Pesticide “Menma”, produced by distillation of Tapioca stem and leaves. It was found to be very effective in the control of this pest. Present study focused on the reproductive disfunctions caused by this Botanical product. It was found that application of “Menma” produced developmental deformations such morphological defects in the developing larvae and pupae. Application of this pesticide resulted in alterations in composition of hemolymph and hemocytes. Among the hemocytes, prohemocytes are present abundance in normal younger larvae. In the treated condition only prohemocytes were present and they were in ruptured condition. It was proved that “menma” is highly efficient in the management of insect pest *O. longicollis*.

Key words: banana stem borer, Biopesticide, Botanicals, Menma