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Date Palm Production and Bio Pesticide Research

Mohammad Kamil, Ph.D

Director General, Lotus Holistic Institute, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Abstract

The UAE Government, in the framework of its development plans, has placed the establishment of a date production industry one of its priorities. Under the leadership of His Highness, The President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, there are continual efforts to increase agricultural productivity, to make better use of available resources, and to produce an agricultural leap that is changing the face of the UAE's desert.

In continuation of my earlier work (1-5), the aim of the present study is a step forward for carrying out the use of new Bio-Pesticide for Sustainable Date Palm Production to identify and evaluate some novel; more suitable and new plant extracts with eco-friendly activities against endoparasitic Larval Red Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Oliver found in Date Palm tree (*Phoenix dactylifera* L). These weevils are so effective that even a single pest if present destroys the tissues of the trunk of the tree, resulting therein the falling of the palm tree.

Trials were conducted 'invitro' in the laboratory, nine petri dishes were taken and in each of the petri dishes 4 large uniformly sized larval Red Palm Weevil were taken along with some plant fibers. Then they were observed for the effect of the test on the larval mortality the observation and results will be discussed.

Application of these bio pesticides will not affect the taste and behavior of the date palm fruits as it is affected by the application of organophosphorus insecticide/ pesticides earlier. This programme has not only of national significance but if proved successful, would be applicable worldwide for the sustainable growth of date palm production.

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