

HOST PREFERENCE OF RED PUMPKIN BEETLE
AULACOPHORA FOVEICOLLIS (LUCAS)

Said Mir Khan and Noor Islam Khattak.
Faculty of Agriculture, Gomal University, D.I.Khan.

Received: 10-03-91
Accepted: 24-10-91

ABSTRACT

Study was conducted on the host preference of red pumpkin beetle Aulacophora foveicollis (Lucas), using 3 cultivars of muskmelon (T₉₆, bukhara, and ravi) and one each of bottle gourd and watermelon (sugar babi). The data was recorded by counting the adult beetles per plant at weekly intervals. The Results revealed that muskmelon cultivar T₉₆ was the most preferred host of red pumpkin beetle, followed by bukhara and ravi. Watermelon (sugar babi) was the least preferred host, followed by bottle gourd.

INTRODUCTION

Muskmelon an important summer fruit is grown almost throughout Pakistan as a cash crop, particularly in Dera Ismail Khan Division. It is a rich source of vitamin A,B,C and also contains sugars and minerals in reasonable quantities.

For many years melon cultivation has been facing a serious and regular threat from various insect pests, like fruitflies, aphids, bugs, pumpkin beetles, white fly and powdery mildew disease etc. Among these pest, red pumpkin beetle is more important pest as it destroys the whole crop in severe cases.

Rawat and Mehra [1] conducted a food preference trial of A.foveicollis in Jabalpur, India. According to them this insect showed more preference for melon than pumpkin and bottle gourd. Snake gourd was least preferred by this insect as compared to smooth gourd, ridge gourd and bitter gourd.