

Pathogenicity of *Nomuraea rileyi* Against Larval Instars of *Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius) Reared on Different Host Crops

C Lalitha and K Manjula

Department of Entomology, S.V. Agricultural College, Tirupati 517 502, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

The pathogenicity tests of *Nomuraea rileyi* against II, III and IV instar larvae of *Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius) reared on three different host crops viz., castor, groundnut and tomato were carried out. *N. rileyi* infected larvae died by exhibiting the characteristic symptoms like slightly raised head and anterior portion of body and firmly adhering the posterior portion to the substrate i.e. food material with prolegs. After infection and death with *N. rileyi* the larval body was observed to be covered with white mycelial mat and later entire body became olive green due to sporulation. With respect to individual instars, as the concentration of *N. rileyi* decreased, the larval mortality showed positive correlation. The larval mortality was also in negative association with age of the larvae. Relatively higher mortality were obtained when treated, larvae were fed with castor leaves than groundnut and tomato and cent per cent death was recorded in II instar at higher concentrations.

Key words : Host Crops, Larval Mortality, *Nomuraea rileyi*, Pathogenicity, *Spodoptera litura*