

**EFFICACY OF ENTOMOPATHOGENIC NEMATODES
AGAINST THE DIAMONDBACK MOTH *PLUTELLA*
XYLOSTELLA (LEPIDOPTERA: YPONOMEUTIDAE)**

G. RATNASINGHE* AND N.G.M. HAGUE

*Department of Agriculture, University of Reading,
Earley Gate, P.O. Box 236, Reading RG6 6AT, U.K.
*Regional Research Centre, Diyatalawa Road,
Bandarowela, Sri Lanka.*

Abstract

The efficacy of three steinernematid nematodes, *Steinernema Carpocapsae*, *S. riobravivis* and *S. feltiae* was evaluated in laboratory test against different stages in the life cycle of the diamondback moth (DBM). Against larvae of DBM the LT_{50} was less than 3 h for all three nematodes, but *S. carpocapsae* was the most virulent killing DBM larvae after 6 h exposure. Pre-pupae were very susceptible to nematode treatment and *S. carpocapsae* caused 40% mortality in immature and mature pupae. More infective juveniles of *S. carpocapsae* established in DBM larvae than the other nematodes tested.