REPELLENT EFFECT OF CERTAIN CHEMICALS COMPOUNDS ON WILD BIRDS ATTACKING WHEAT AND COWPEA UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT: The efficacy of Tukam® and VP Skud® compounds were tested as repellents against wild birds attacking wheat and cowpea fields in Sharkia Governorate. In the wheat crop experiment, the house sparrow Passer domesticus niloticus attacked the spikes with the highest percentage of damage (14.82%) in the control trial, during the 6th week when spikes emergence. While damage percentages were 11.19, 9.22, 8.94 and 8.73% when applying Tukam® concentrations of 2.5, 5, 10 and 15 ml/liter, respectively during the same period in the treatment trials. The highest protection percentage was obtained in the 4th week with 15, 10, 5 and 2.5 ml/liter, respectively. The same trend was found with VP Skud®, since the highest percentages of damage were 10.07%, 9.16%, 8.08% and 6.20% in the 6th week with the four concentrations 1, 2, 4 and 6 ml/liter, respectively. While the protection percentage were the highest during the 4th week with concentrations of 6, 4, 2 and 1 ml/liter, respectively. In the cowpea experiment, pigeon (Cloumba sp.) attacked the pods and caused high percentage of damage reached 13.32% in the 5th week of the control trial. When spraying Tukam® at a concentration of 15.0 ml/liter, the damage was dropped considerably as compared with other concentrations or control after pollination. The decrease in damage was found to be 2.11, 3.88, 4.74 and 7.38%, after the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th week, respectively. The highest protection percentage was recorded with the concentration of 15 ml/liter. The same trend was recorded with VP Skud®. It gave the lowest percentage of damage at the concentration of 6 ml/liter with values of 1.97, 3.21, 5.67 and 10.56%, during the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th week after pollination, respectively. Protection percentage reached its maximum during the study period with the concentration of 6 ml/liter.

Key words: Wild birds, damage, crop depredation, repellent effect, wheat, cowpea, tukam®, VP. Skud®.

INTRODUCTION

Most bird species are beneficial but some species can seriously cause severe damages to many important agricultural crops in many countries. In Egypt, wild bird species are attacking various economic important crops (Issa and El-Bakhshawngi, 2018). Bird damage varies according to the field site, crop type, region and mainly to bird species in any specific area (Ahmad et al., 2018). Wheat consumption in Egypt is increasing during the recent years as a result of the fast growing of human population. Therefore, the need to increase crop yields and/or decrease losses to birds is very essential at the present time and in the near future. Crop losses due to bird pests are a major threat to food security. One of the most common bird pest of wheat crop is the house sparrow, Passer domesticus niloticus, which attack wheat plants, starting from the second week after pollination and during the ripening stage (Attia, 2013). El-Deeb (1991) mentioned that bird damage starts from the early ripening stage, increases during the milky and dough stages and reaches their maximum at the mature stage.

Cowpea is a member of the Leguminosae family. It is economically important warm season grain, and a major source of dietary protein and considered as a dependable commodity that produces income for farmers

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(Langyintuo et al., 2003). Pigeons and house sparrow consume and contaminate large quantities of food destined for human including Cowpea. Blue rock pigeon, *Columba livia*, damage 42% of the peas crop either chickpeas or pigeon peas (Kale et al., 2014).

Chemical repellents are intended to prevent birds from feeding on a particular food. There is a necessity to use avicide compounds to control bird populations and thus decrease their damage to crops. The mode of action of avicides depends on the chemical used. Some avicides may be used as bird repellents, some were selectively toxic to birds. Some have been used as soporifics and some as reproductive inhibitors (Schafer, 1991). Chemical repellents are intended to prevent birds from feeding on a particular food. Methiocarb is one of the avicides used as bird control agent, which provide alternative means of reducing bird damage applied to grain sorghum. Grain yields were higher and bird damage was lower on the methiocarb-treated plots than on the check plots (Duncan, 1980). The methiocarb grain bait at 0.1% proved to be highly effective in repelling sparrows and may function as an ideal crop protection against bird invasion (Rizvi et al., 2002). Methyl anthranilate, formulated as Bird Shield® repellent was effective to protect sweet corn, sunflower and cherries against bird depredation (Askham, 2000). Polyphenols with several aspects related to phenolics chemistry convert to the several compounds as coumarins, tannins, anthocyanins, cinnamic acids and flavonoids (Pereira et al., 2009). Phenolic compound and terpenes are plant secondary metabolites that act as deterrents for gallinaceous birds feeding and Canada geese (Bryant and Kuropat, 1980; Buchsbaum et al., 1984). Generally, the present work was designed to study the repellency effect of two different chemical compounds, Tukam® (Magnesium oxide 5% W/W) and VP Skud® (K₂O 10% W/W and sylvinit and polyphenolic), at different concentrations, on reducing bird damage to wheat and cowpea crops under field conditions.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Study Areas**

The experiments were carried out at Sharkia Governorate, Egypt, in two locations:

**El-Qurein (30°60’N, 31°74’E)**

Fields cultivated with wheat crop were chosen at this location according to farmers’ complaints of bird depredation. The selected plots occupy more than 20 faddans during the wheat growing season of 2017. The area boundaries are drainage canal from the East with several shrubs, small water canal from the West with dense shrubs, several dominant tree species from the North including *Ficus* sp. and camphor tree, *Cinnamomum camphora*, with a pass way and to the South another pass way followed by fields cultivated with vegetable crops.

**El-Qanayat (30°62’N, 31°46’E)**

The study area occupies about 20 faddans cultivated with cowpea during the season of 2017. This area has a history of severe bird attack. The borders were as follows: In the East, fields cultivated with maize; the West, a pass way exists then maize fields; a small water canal with dense shrubs and mulberry trees (*Morus* sp.) from the North and to the South a pass way exists followed by maize fields.

**Tested compounds**

**Tukam®**

- Common name: Magnesium oxide 5% W/W.
- Trade name: Tukam® was obtained from Shoura Chemicals Products, Egypt. The experimental concentrerations applied in this work were 2.5, 5.0, 10.0 and 15.0 ml/liter, the normal recommendation concentration was 5 ml/liter.

**VP Skud®**

- Common name: K₂O 10% W/W and sylvinite and polyphenolic
- Trade name: VP Skud® was obtained from Gaara Seeds Company, Egypt. The recommendation concentration was 2-4 ml/
liter, the experimental concentrations applied in this work were 1, 2, 4 and 6 ml/liter.

**Wheat (Triticum aestivum) Experiments:**

Nine plots about 2 faddans for each plot were selected for treatments and separated by 100 m. The above mentioned concentrations of Tukam® and VP Skud® were initially used at the milky stage of wheat. The first application was made in the second week after pollination (milky stage), while the second one was applied 15 days after accomplished the first application. The treated and untreated plots were inspected weekly from the end of the second week after pollination till harvest to determine the percentage of damage. The same execution was as in wheat experiments. Determination percentage of damage by pigeon (Cloumba sp.) for cowpea plants was carried out after pollination at pods formation stage. Five randomly samples were taken weekly in fields treated and untreated (control). In each sample ten successive plants were inspected to estimate the degree of damage in ripening stage according to Issa and El-Bakhshawngi (2018). The percentage of damage was calculated by the formula:

\[
\text{Damage (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of damaged pods}}{\text{Total No. of examined pods}} \times 100
\]

**The Percentage of protection**

Protection percentage was calculated according to Khattab (1993) and El-Sherbiny et al. (1994) by the formula:

\[
\text{Protection (\%)} = \frac{\text{Damage in control (\%)} - \text{Damage in treatment (\%)}}{\text{Damage in control (\%)}} \times 100
\]

**Data Analysis**

Data were arranged using excel sheet and statistically analyzed using the (CoStat Statistical Software, 2005). All data were first subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and least significant differences (LSD) were calculated at P ≤ 0.05.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Wheat Experiments**

**Tukam® experiment:**

Results in Table 1 demonstrate that the damage percentage of wheat increased in treated and control fields throughout the 1st week after pollinations and during grains development till the 6th week. The highest percentage of damage was recorded during the 6th week of control
(14.82 %). Damage percentage for the following concentrations of 2.5, 5, 10 and 15 ml/liter were 11.19%, 9.22%, 8.94% and 8.73%, respectively.

The lowest damage percentage was 1.72%, 1.68%, 1.45% and 1.38% for the same concentrations, respectively. Highly significant differences were observed among the four different concentrations and control in the 3rd till the 6th week, while there were no significant differences in the 2nd week.

Results in Fig. 1 reveal that no protection was found during the 2nd week, after the first spray with Tukam® with concentrations of 2.5 and 5 ml/liter. On the other hand, the 4th week gave the highest values of protection percentage in descending order with concentrations (15, 10, 5 and 2.5 ml/liter).

VP Skud® experiment

The VP Skud® compound was investigated with four concentrations (1, 2, 4 and 6 ml/liter), with the same procedures used with Tukam®. The results in Table 2 clear that the percentage of wheat damage was increased gradually throughout the weeks at all concentrations, with low value 0.61% at concentration of 6 ml/liter during the 2nd week. The highest percentage of damage was 14.82% and the lowest was 6.20% during the 6th week with control and 6 ml/liter concentration, respectively. Highly significant differences were found among all the treatments and control.

Results in Figs. 2 and 3 reveal that among all the treatments the concentration of 6 ml/liter was the best in protection percentage from the 2nd till the 6th weeks. The same trends were observed with Tukam®, the 4th week give the highest value of protection percentage too in descending order with concentrations (6, 4, 2 and 1 ml/liter, respectively).

These result agree with El-Deeb (1990) who found that Mesurol has better repellency effect on wheat than on other crops. Kattab (1993) cleared that house sparrow attacks wheat at ripening stage and the damage varied from location to location depending on the prevailing agroecosystem and weather conditions. He added that house sparrow avoided the chemicals which applied at higher concentrations. Also the protection indices of Nuvarcon at the concentration of 0.5% were from 72.8 to 76.7 and at concentration of 1.0% from 81.9 to 89.7. Askham (2000) stated that birds in sunflowers didn’t go a way after the crop had been treated and a little feeding on crop was noted, considerably less or no damage was found in comparison with the untreated fields. Mesarool treated fields received less damage than control plot was observed by Kassa and Jackson (1979). About 38–100% feeding repellency among horned larks offered wheat seeds (Triticum spp.) treated with 168–3010 ppm anthraquinone during the concentration-response were observed by Werner et al. (2015). In New Zealand, Day et al. (2012) found that the free ranging house sparrow (Passer domesticus) responded to various concentrations of repellent (Avex) with treated wheat, the highest concentration (2%) reduced wheat consumption. Hess and Britton (1997) found that feeding hens on magnesium oxide reduced feed consumption and decreased egg production.

Cowpea Experiments

Tukam® experiment

The obtained results in Table 3 reveal that the highest consumed percentage of cowpea pods were recorded with control treatment 13.32%, followed by the concentration of 2.5 ml/liter with 11.53% in the 5th week. The concentrate of 15 ml/liter gave the lowest percentage of damage compared to other concentrations and control during the different weeks with values of 2.11, 3.88, 4.74 and 7.38% in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th week, respectively. Statistical analysis of data showed that there were no significant differences among different concentrations and control in the 2nd week. On the other hand, there were significant differences in the 3rd, 4th and 5th week.

Results in Fig. 4 show that the pigeons consumed more of cowpea beans with the concentration of 2.5 ml/liter from Tukom® during the 2nd and 5th week. The highly protection percentage were recorded with concentrations of 15 and 10 ml/liter, during the whole period.
Table 1. Damage percentage caused by house sparrow as influenced by repellent effect of Tukom® in wheat fields at El-Qurein location, Sharkia Governorate during 2017 season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>2nd week</th>
<th>3rd week</th>
<th>4th week</th>
<th>5th week</th>
<th>6th week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>11.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>9.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>8.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>9.89</td>
<td>14.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>0.47**</td>
<td>0.46**</td>
<td>0.97**</td>
<td>0.68**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1. The protection percentage of Tukom® compound in wheat fields attacked by house sparrow at El-Qurein location during 2017 season

Table 2. Damage percentage caused by house sparrow as influenced by repellent effect of VP Skud® in wheat fields at El-Qurein location, Sharkia Governorate during 2017 season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>2nd week</th>
<th>3rd week</th>
<th>4th week</th>
<th>5th week</th>
<th>6th week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ml/liter</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>10.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ml/liter</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>9.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>8.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ml/liter</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>6.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>9.89</td>
<td>14.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>0.49**</td>
<td>0.27**</td>
<td>0.46**</td>
<td>0.73**</td>
<td>0.56**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2. The protection percentage of VP Skud® compound in wheat fields attacked by house sparrow at El-Qurein location during 2017 season

Fig. 3. Damage caused by house sparrow in wheat spikes, a: early damage, b: late damage

Table 3. Damage percentage caused by pigeon (*Cloumba* sp.) to cowpea fields as influenced by repellent effect of Tukom® at El-Qanayat location, Sharkia Governorate during 2017 season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>2\textsuperscript{nd} week</th>
<th>3\textsuperscript{rd} week</th>
<th>4\textsuperscript{th} week</th>
<th>5\textsuperscript{th} week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>11.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>10.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>8.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>7.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>9.47</td>
<td>13.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>1.02*</td>
<td>1.51**</td>
<td>1.13**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 4. The protection percentage of Tukom® compound to cowpea fields attacked by pigeon (Cloumba sp.) at El-Qanayat location during season of 2017

VP Skud® experiment

Results clearly showed that, spraying of VP Skud® was not effective to prevent birds depredate cowpea in the concentration of 1 ml/liter at the 2nd week, while it was effective with concentration of 6 ml/liter at the same week. The highest percentage of damage in the control and different treatments 1, 2, 4 and 6 ml/liter and were at 5th week with 13.32, 12.13, 12.6, 11.35 and 10.56%, respectively. The statistical analysis illustrated significant variations between treatments in the different weeks (Table 4).

Results in Figs. 5 and 6 cleared that the concentration of 1 ml/liter was not affective in protect the crop at the 2nd week. But the concentration of 6 ml/liter gave the highest percentage of protection during the whole period of the study.

Pigeon and house sparrow can be considered a menace when seeds have been formed in the pods. They start feeding on the seeds from the time pods are being formed until harvest. At the pod filling stage, they can completely devour the crop. Harvesting pods must be carried out as soon as they mature before the crop is too dry because they shattered easily and scatter the seeds on the ground.

For discussing the aforementioned results it could be concluded that the effectiveness of the tested compounds differed considerably according to the type of chemical, concentrations, crops, its stage and type of habitat. Kattab (1993) cleared that wild birds attack broad bean and peas at old land and newly reclaimed area with mean percentage of damage reached 14.4; 11.1 and 11.1; 9.5, respectively. Also, the protection indices of Nuvacron at concentration of 0.5% were ranged from 69.8 to 76.2%, concentration of 1.0% from 76.7 to 84.8 and Dimethoate concentration of 0.5% were from 60.7 to 67.3% and concentration of 1.0% from 63.8 to 71.2%, while Marshal concentration of 0.5% were from 68.0 to 72.5% and concentration of 1.0% from 74.0 to 76.1%. York et al. (2000) recorded horned lark damage to lettuce seedlings with 60% in Anthraquinone treated and 20% in Mesurol treated, while control plot 100% at enclosure. Cummings et al. (2006) referred that horned larks consumed fewer lettuce seedlings treated with flight control (anthraquinone) than untreated seedlings. Birds consumed 8.5% seedlings in the treated enclosures, versus 68.5% seedlings in untreated enclosures. Niner et al. (2015) mentioned that the effect of repellent range from quick aversion upon contact with taste and smell receptors to delayed gastrointestinal discomfort and vomiting following ingestion after suffering the negative sequence of a repellent, birds usually forage elsewhere.
Table 4. Damage percentage caused by pigeon (*Cloumba* sp.) to cowpea fields as influenced by repellent effect of VP Skud® at El-Qanayat location, Sharkia Governorate during 2017 season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; week</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; week</th>
<th>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; week</th>
<th>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ml/liter</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>7.83</td>
<td>12.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>7.79</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ml/liter</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>11.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ml/liter</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>10.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>9.47</td>
<td>13.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD 0.05</td>
<td>0.75**</td>
<td>1.30*</td>
<td>1.49**</td>
<td>0.96**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5. The protection percentage of VP Skud® compound to cowpea fields attacked by pigeon (*Cloumba* sp.) at El-Qanayat location during season of 2017

Fig. 6. Damage caused by pigeon in cowpea pods, a: early damage, b: late damage
REFERENCES


التأثير الطارئ لبعض المركبات الكيميائية على مهاجمة الطيور البرية للقمح والوحبى تحت الظروف الحقلية

Mohammed Youssef Ismael - Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Bishmouneh – Mohammed Hassan Al-Mahdy

تم دراسة التأثير الطارئ لكل من مركبي التعكك وفي بي سكدى على الطيور البرية التي تهاجم محصول القمح والوحبى تحت الظروف الحقلية بمحافظة الشرقية، حيث يراجع عصب التولى، توزع الفح مسبباً أي نسبة إصابة بنسبة 4.87% في القمح غير المعالمة خالل الأسواقاء السادس بعد انتقاق السمايات. بينما كانت نسبة الإصابة في القمح المعالمة بمركب التعكك 4.43%، 9.42%، 6.41%، 2.15%، 1.97%، 8.34% للتركيزات 2.5 مللي/لنتر، 15 مللي/لنتر على التوالي خلال الأسواقاء السادس، وسجل تركيز 15 مللي/لنتر أعلى نسبة حماية في الأسواقاء السادس، بينما في القمح المعالمة بمركب الفي بي سكدى 6.26%، 9.16%، 8.08%، 4.20%، 3.88%، 3.43%، 2.73%، 4.76%، 0.67%، 0.37%، 0.15% خالل الأسواقاء السادس، المثلى 3 مللي/لنتر، أخيراً أعلى نسبة إصابة مع التركيز 3 مللي/لنتر، وسجل نسبة الحماية أعلى مع التركيز 3 مللي/لنتر.