

Attraction behaviour of entomopathogenic nematodes towards different Lepidopteran insect pests

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ABSTRACT: Studies on the attraction of infective juveniles of entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN), *Steinernema masoodi* and *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 03) towards 2nd instar larva of gram pod borer, *Helicoverpa armigera*, greater wax moth, *Galleria mellonella* and rice moth, *C. cephalonica* were tested in petri dish. Results showed that, both species of EPNs were found to have positive attraction responses towards test insects. Among test species of EPNs, *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 03) was found more responsive towards *H. armigera*, *G. mellonella* and *C. cephalonica* than *S. masoodi*. The maximum attraction of *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 03) was found towards *H. armigera* (42 %), followed by *G. mellonella* (34 %) and *C. cephalonica* (31%). In case of *S. masoodi* responses towards *H. armigera* (34%) was more, whereas least attraction responses towards *G. mellonella* (31%) and *C. cephalonica* (27%). The attraction behaviour of entomopathogenic nematodes vary between species to species.

Key Words: Entomopathogenic nematodes, attraction, behaviour.