Effect of coal fly ash and vermicompost amendment on soil earthworm and nematode count, and change in soil carbon pool in rice nursery

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Abstract

Fly ash (FA) as a byproduct from the coal-fired power plants needs timely, effective, productive and safe disposal. Its application to soil at lower concentration is advocated by many researchers due to its soil ameliorative properties. Combined application of FA along with organic substrates such as farm yard manure, compost, and microbial culture has positive influence on soil biota and crop performance. But the xenobiotic effect of FA in presence of vermicompost (VC) has not yet been studied fully. The present investigation was carried out in western Odisha, India with native soil, FA and VC at 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% and 100% combinations (by weight) to study their effects on earthworm and nematode count, and change in soil carbon pool in rice nursery. The experiment was laid out in a factorial complete randomized design with three replications. The earthworm and nematode population at 40 DAS of rice was positively influenced by the concentration of VC in rhizosphere of rice nursery but FA addition affected earthworm survivability to an extent that no earthworm was found with more than 20% FA. Rhabditis terricola and Dorylaimids in the rhizosphere of rice nursery was also positively linked with VC concentration while FA had antagonistic effects. Absence of nematodes and earthworm at higher concentration of FA could be linked to xenobiotic effects of FA. Mild addition (20% each) of FA and VC to native soil could increase in carbon stock to the maximum extent due to combined effect of larger surface area of FA and minimized microbial activity limiting respirational carbon loss.

1. Introduction

Burning of fossil fuels for yielding energy is an inevitable practice in the race for economic development across the globe. Coal-fired power plants are the main source of energy in many developed and developing countries. Combustion of pulverized sub-bituminous coal (lignite) in the furnace generate byproducts such as fly ash (FA), bottom ash and boiler slag that need timely, effective, productive and safe disposal; particularly FA that accounts for the maximum volume. The so called problematic ‘solid waste’ has now gained the status of ‘valuable wealth’ due to innovative practice of its use in agriculture, construction, land filling, etc. This amorphous ferro-alumino silicate with most essential plant elements except organic carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous (Tripathy and Sahu 1997) could very well be used in agriculture at lower concentration. Its addition alters physicochemical properties of soil and acts as soil conditioner or modifier (Kalra et al., 1998). FA improves soil bacteria count and enzyme activity of dehydrogenase, urease and alkaline phosphatase which are beneficial for plant growth (Yeledhalli et al. 2007). Presence of heavy metals in FA is a great concern. Many researchers have used it in addition to farm yard manure, compost, microbial culture, etc. in agricultural crops. Researchers recommend for its application in lower concentration as soil microbial population and nutrient availability are affected at higher concentrations. Attempts have already been made to study the composting behaviour of earthworms at varying concentrations of FA to prepare vermi-ash. However, use of FA and vermicompost (VC) in agricultural field has not yet been studied much.

An investigation into the literature on the effects of FA and VC on soil biota, particularly the nematode and earthworm, indicated reduction in nematode population with 40% addition of FA in tomato crop due
to nematicidal effect of FA (Ahmad and Alam 1997; Singh et al. 2011). FA has shown inhibitory effects on root-knot nematodes (Tarannum et al. 2001). Potato cyst nematode (Renco and Kovacik 2015) and plant parasitic nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) population reduced significantly with application of VC but the population of fungivorous and bacterivorous nematodes increased (Munyua et al. 2015). *Rhabditis terricola* were found in cocoons of *Lumbricus rubellus* and *Eisenia fetida* that failed to hatch after an adequate incubation period. This nematode, previously known as a saprophyte, was found to invade earthworm cocoons and reproduce within, causing extensive productivity losses in earthworm cultures (Taboga 1981). However, results on the effects of simultaneous use of FA and VC at different concentrations on soil biota are very rarely traceable.

Addition of FA provides microclimate to facilitate organic matter humification and formation of stable organic carbon (Ukwattage et al. 2013). Increase in carbon stock of soil in agriculture field with the addition of FA was also noted by Bruce et al. (2009). A major absorption of atmospheric CO$_2$ occurs in presence of oxides and hydroxides of Ca and Mg in FA (Palumbo et al. 2004). Carbon also enters into the soil through root exudates (Kell 2012). However, presence or absence of earthworm in soil did not have any effect in mineral fertilised soils but the quality and quantity of soil organic matter were positively influenced by bioturbation in compost-amended soil (Thi Ngo et al. 2012). Oke (2015) has also recommended VC application for increasing the soil organic carbon. With this backdrop, an experiment was conducted to elucidate the effects of FA and VC on earthworm and nematode population, and to monitor short-term change in carbon pool in the rhizospheric substrate under rice nursery.

2. Materials And Methods

2.1 Experimental site and climate

The experiment was laid out during March to June 2017 in the West Central Table Land Zone, Sambalpur, Odisha, India (83° 53’ E and 21° 21’ N) at 150.75 m above the MSL, 365 km away from the Bay of Bengal at the east. No crop was cultivated in the experimental site during last 5 years. This locality is classified as Aw (Koppen and Geiger 1984) and characterized by tropical climate with warm and dry summer and normal to chilling winter with much rainier summers than winters. The long-term average temperature and annual rainfall are 26.8 °C and 1,638 mm, respectively. The monthly weather parameters during the cropping season (*kharif* 2017) recorded at the meteorological observatory nearby the experimental site has been depicted in Fig1. A composite soil sample drawn from the experimental site was processed and analysed for physicochemical properties by following procedures mentioned in book.

2.2 Experimental set up

Three different substrates i.e. native soil, coal fly ash (henceforth FA) and vermicompost (VC), each at 6 different concentrations i.e. 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% and 100% (by weight) were mixed to result 21 treatment combinations (Table 1) that were replicated thrice in box-plots under factorial complete randomized design. No additional chemical or organic fertilizer was supplemented except FA and VC as
per experimental plan. The FA was procured from the nearby HINDALCO industries Ltd., Sambalpur from the FA pond where all types of coal ash are dumped. The VC was prepared from FYM in poly-tank by engaging *Eisenia fetida*. The detailed analyses reports of the 3 substrates (soil, FA and VC) at the beginning of the experiment are under Table 2.

A semi-dwarf, non-lodging, non-shattering and medium duration (135 days), high-yielding rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) cv. Vijetha (MTU-1001) with moderate tillering habit was adopted for conducting this experiment. Foundation seeds of this cultivar were sterilised with 0.1% HgCl$_2$ for 5 minutes to eliminate fungal infection and then ringed thoroughly with water before soaking in distilled water for 5 hours. The soaked seeds were removed from water and air dried before sowing evenly by a dibbler. After 10 days, excess seedlings were thinned out to keep uniform stand and avoid over-crowding. Two hand weedings (at 20 and 40 DAS) were carried out to facilitate seedling growth. Use of plant protection chemicals was deliberately avoided to safeguard soil biota. Distilled water of equal quantity was applied to each box-plot during the entire nursery period and adequate measures were taken to avoid irrigation water stagnation.

### 2.3 Methods of recording observations

At the end of the experiment, nematode population from the soil sample was studied by following the procedure by combination of Cobb's sieving and decanting technique and modified Baermann's technique (Barker, 1985) and the earthworm population from the soil sample was studied by washing out the soil and counting the number.

Increase in carbon pool of the soil that occurs due to fixing up of the atmospheric CO$_2$ or addition of organic matter or by reduction in the microbial activities can be estimated by using the procedure laid down by Kundu et al. (2007). In this experiment, the initial organic carbon (OC) percentage of each treatment at the beginning of the experiment was used for estimating the corresponding initial OC% of each treatment combination. The difference in the OC % between 30 DAS and the initial values gave rise to the change in OC%. The BD of each treatment combination was multiplied with the corresponding OC (mg kg$^{-1}$ of soil) difference so as to get the carbon pool of the soil.

Mathematically,

\[
\text{Soil organic carbon stock (SOC)} = \frac{\text{Increase/ decrease of SOC stock due to treatment over the initial stock}}{\text{Duration / period}}
\]

### 2.4 Statistical analysis
All data collected were arranged and analysed statistically by following procedures laid down by Gomez and Gomez (1984). One-way ANOVA at 0.05 probability levels was applied assessing the effect of FA and VC amendments on the above parameters by using MS-Excel. In the summary tables of results, the standard error of means (S.Em±) and the value of the critical difference (CD) have been shown to compare the differences among treatment means.

3. Results And Discussion

3.1 Earthworm population

At 40 DAS, the population of earthworm m$^{-3}$ was the maximum (1067.2 ± 287.7) in S$_{20}$F$_{0}$V$_{80}$ followed by S$_{60}$F$_{0}$V$_{40}$, S$_{40}$F$_{0}$V$_{60}$, S$_{0}$F$_{0}$V$_{100}$, S$_{20}$F$_{20}$V$_{60}$ and S$_{60}$F$_{20}$V$_{20}$ in descending order (Table 3). No earthworm was found in rest of the treatment combinations. No earthworm was also found in any treatment combination with FA only but without soil in it. The earthworm population was relatively higher in complete absence of FA compared to those present in the lower level of FA. This could be due to the extreme sensitivity of earthworms to negative effects of FA in absence of soil. Alternatively, the ability of soil in smothering ill effects of FA, only at a lower level (20%), could be attributed to their survivability in it. The dormant cocoons carried over by the freshly prepared VC are supposed to be the source of earthworms in different treatment combinations.

3.2 Nematode population

At 30 DAS, the highest population (32.3 ± 8.5 g$^{-1}$) of *Rhabditis terricola* (Fig 2.a and 2.b) was in S$_{0}$F$_{0}$V$_{100}$ followed by S$_{80}$F$_{0}$V$_{20}$ (24.7 ± 4.9 g$^{-1}$) and S$_{40}$F$_{0}$V$_{60}$ (24.3 ± 6.0 g$^{-1}$) (Table 3). This species of nematode was not seen in S$_{0}$F$_{100}$V$_{0}$, S$_{20}$F$_{80}$V$_{0}$, S$_{40}$F$_{60}$V$_{0}$ and S$_{60}$F$_{40}$V$_{0}$. The population of *Dorylaimids* (Fig 3.a and 3.b) was although maximum in S$_{40}$F$_{0}$V$_{60}$ (10.3 ± 4.2 g$^{-1}$) but at par with the next best combinations (S$_{20}$F$_{0}$V$_{80}$ and S$_{40}$F$_{20}$V$_{40}$). Not a single specimen of *Dorylaimids* was found in S$_{0}$F$_{40}$V$_{60}$, S$_{0}$F$_{60}$V$_{40}$, S$_{0}$F$_{80}$V$_{20}$, S$_{0}$F$_{100}$V$_{0}$, S$_{20}$F$_{40}$V$_{40}$, S$_{20}$F$_{60}$V$_{20}$, S$_{20}$F$_{80}$V$_{0}$, S$_{40}$F$_{60}$V$_{0}$, S$_{60}$F$_{40}$V$_{0}$, S$_{80}$F$_{20}$V$_{20}$ and S$_{80}$F$_{20}$V$_{0}$. The population of *Rhabditis terricola* varied with the concentration of VC in different treatment combinations. As they are the nematode cocoon feeding parasites their population was likely to differ according to the levels of VC. However, the presence of FA has an adverse effect on its population in spite of the presence of VC. The plant-parasitic nematode *Dorylaimida sps* acting as the transmitter of viruses also varies with levels of VC and FA. However, their maximum presence in S$_{40}$F$_{0}$V$_{60}$ might be due to synergistic growth environment.

3.3 Variation in soil carbon pool

With 20% substitution of VC by FA i.e. in S$_{0}$F$_{20}$V$_{80}$, significantly the highest OC% (0.45 ± 0.027) was recorded at 30 DAS (Table 3 and Fig 4) among all treatment combinations including 100% VC (0.306 ± 0.021%). The OC% of native virgin soil (S$_{100}$F$_{0}$V$_{0}$) at 30 DAS was the lowest (0.018 ± 0.001) without any deviation from its initial status in spite of raising rice nursery in it and that was ensued by S$_{80}$F$_{20}$V$_{0}$.
The OC% of sole FA at 30 DAS was lesser (0.054 ± 0.003%) than the initial content (0.09%). Relatively higher OC% with low (20%) to moderate (40%) application of FA or soil to VC could be mostly due to higher OC base-status of VC and also due to lesser microbial decomposition during 30 DAS. But, with higher application FA the OC% reduced significantly mostly due to marginal C contribution from FA. Such type of inverse relation was also observed by Singh et al. (2011) and Sarkar et al. (2012).

Increase in carbon stock with the addition of FA and VC to virgin native soil could be ascribed to increased surface area of substrate due to finer particle size of FA that combined atmospheric CO₂, both physically and chemically. This was in agreement with the earlier explanations cited by Zuniga et al. (2016) for carbon dioxide adsorption and Palumbo et al. (2004) for chemical reaction with oxides and hydroxides of Ca and Mg present in FA. Furthermore, higher carbon stock could also be due to reduced microbial activities in FA amended substrates that might have minimised decomposition and respiration that ultimately reduced CO₂ emission. This is in conformity with the earlier result of Yunusa et al. (2015) and Bruce et al. (2009). On the contrary, negative carbon stock in substrates without VC vis-à-vis in 100% VC could possibly be due to rapid decomposition of the organic carbon in presence of active saprophytic microorganisms in VC. This was in agreement with the previous report (Anonymous 2008). Lack of build-up of soil microbes in 100% virgin soil could be the reason for no change in carbon stock.

4. Conclusion

The population of earthworm was positively influenced by the concentration of VC in rhizosphere of rice nursery but FA addition affected earthworm survivability to such an extent that no earthworm was found with more than 20% FA. The population of Rhabditis terricola and Dorylaimids in the rhizosphere of rice nursery was also positively linked with VC concentration while FA had antagonistic effects. In comparison to Rhabditis terricola, Dorylaimida sps had more affinity towards native soil. Absence of nematodes and earthworm at higher concentration of FA could be linked to xenobiotic effects of FA. Mild addition (20% each) of FA and VC to native soil could increase in carbon stock to the maximum extent due to combined effect of larger surface area of FA that fixed atmospheric CO₂ and minimized microbial decomposition of organic matter supplemented through VC and respiration by microbes as well. Chemical reaction with oxides and hydroxides of Ca and Mg present in FA could also be ascribed to higher carbon stock at mild addition of FA. But higher concentration FA acted negatively on the carbon pool in the rhizosphere of rice nursery.

Declarations

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Author contributions: SKD: Conceptualization, visualization, methodology, formal analysis, analyzed data, writing-original draft. SKS: Review and editing. MB: Soil analysis.
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Data availability The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article.

Compliance with ethical standards

Ethical approval This work was performed in compliance with ethical standards.

Consent to participate All authors were informed about, and agreed to the protocol.

Consent to publish All authors were allowed to read and approve the final manuscript.

Conflict of interest There is no conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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Tables

Table 1 Details of treatment combinations and symbols used
| Sl. No. | Treatment combinations | Symbols used | Sl. No. | Treatment combinations | Symbols used |
|--------|------------------------|--------------|--------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1      | NS (0%) + FA (0%) + VC (100%) | S₀F₀V₁₀₀ | 12     | NS (40%) + FA (0%) + VC (60%) | S₄₀F₀V₆₀ |
| 2      | NS (0%) + FA (20%) + VC (80%) | S₀F₂₀V₈₀ | 13     | NS (40%) + FA (20%) + VC (40%) | S₄₀F₂₀V₄₀ |
| 3      | NS (0%) + FA (40%) + VC (60%) | S₀F₄₀V₆₀ | 14     | NS (40%) + FA (40%) + VC (20%) | S₄₀F₄₀V₂₀ |
| 4      | NS (0%) + FA (60%) + VC (40%) | S₀F₆₀V₄₀ | 15     | NS (40%) + FA (60%) + VC (0%) | S₄₀F₆₀V₀ |
| 5      | NS (0%) + FA (80%) + VC (20%) | S₀F₈₀V₂₀ | 16     | NS (60%) + FA (0%) + VC (40%) | S₆₀F₀V₄₀ |
| 6      | NS (0%) + FA (100%) + VC (0%) | S₀F₁₀₀V₀ | 17     | NS (60%) + FA (20%) + VC (20%) | S₆₀F₂₀V₂₀ |
| 7      | NS (20%) + FA (0%) + VC (80%) | S₂₀F₀V₈₀ | 18     | NS (60%) + FA (40%) + VC (0%) | S₆₀F₄₀V₀ |
| 8      | Soil (20%) + FA (20%) + VC (60%) | S₂₀F₂₀V₆₀ | 19     | Soil (80%) + FA (0%) + VC (20%) | S₈₀F₀V₂₀ |
| 9      | NS (20%) + FA (40%) + VC (40%) | S₂₀F₄₀V₄₀ | 20     | NS (80%) + FA (20%) + VC (0%) | S₈₀F₂₀V₀ |
| 10     | NS (20%) + FA (60%) + VC (20%) | S₂₀F₆₀V₂₀ | 21     | NS (100%) + FA (0%) + VC (0%) | S₁₀₀F₀V₀ |
| 11     | NS (20%) + FA (80%) + VC (0%) | S₂₀F₈₀V₀ |

N.B.: Native soil (NS and S), fly ash (FA and F) and vermicompost (VC and V)

**Table 2** Physicochemical properties of the treatments
| Parameters          | Soil  | Coal ash | Vermicompost | Method(s) employed               |
|---------------------|-------|----------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Sand (%)            | 22.4  | 10.4     | 42.4         | Bouyoucos (1951)                 |
| Silt (%)            | 8.0   | 36.0     | 8.0          |                                  |
| Clay (%)            | 69.6  | 53.6     | 49.6         |                                  |
| pH                  | 6.71  | 6.43     | 6.63         | Jackson (1958)                   |
| EC (dS m⁻¹)         | 0.18  | 0.11     | 0.62         | Jackson (1973)                   |
| Organic carbon (%)  | 0.018 | 0.09     | 0.36         | Walkley and Black (1947)         |
| N (kg ha⁻¹)         | 110.4 | 115.3    | 231.2        | Subbiah and Asija (1956)         |
| P₂O₅ (kg ha⁻¹)      | 72.6  | 277.4    | 280.3        | Bray and Kurtz (1945)            |
| K₂O (kg ha⁻¹)       | 358.7 | 348.9    | 598.4        | Muhr et al. (1965)               |

**Table 3** Effect of treatments on organic carbon and change in carbon pool at 30 DAS, and earthworm count m⁻³ and nematode g⁻¹ of rhizospheric substrates at 40 DAS of rice
| Treatment combinations | Sl. No. | Organic C (%) at 30 DAS | Change in carbon pool (mg of C kg\(^{-1}\) month\(^{-1}\)) at 30 DAS | Earthworm count m\(^{-3}\) of rhizospheric substrate at 40 DAS | Nematode g\(^{-1}\) of substrate at 40 DAS |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                        |        |                         |                                                  |                                                  | **Rhabditis terricola** Dorylaimida spp |
| S\(_0\)F\(_0\) V\(_{100}\) | 1      | 0.306 ± 0.021           | -226.1 ± 13.6                                     | 314.2 ± 108.9                                    | 32.3 ± 8.5  4.3 ± 1.5          |
| S\(_0\)F\(_{20}\) V\(_{80}\) | 2      | 0.45 ± 0.027            | 738.8 ± 44.3                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 18.3 ± 3.1  2.3 ± 1.5          |
| S\(_0\)F\(_{40}\) V\(_{60}\) | 3      | 0.375 ± 0.03            | 843.1 ± 50.6                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 17.7 ± 3.1  0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_0\)F\(_{60}\) V\(_{40}\) | 4      | 0.288 ± 0.02            | 669.4 ± 46.9                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 10.3 ± 3.1  0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_0\)F\(_{80}\) V\(_{20}\) | 5      | 0.252 ± 0.01            | 972.5 ± 38.9                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 9.3 ± 2.5   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_0\)F\(_{100}\) V\(_{0}\) | 6      | 0.054 ± 0.003           | -357.9 ± 21.5                                     | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 0.0 ± 0.0   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_{20}\)F\(_0\) V\(_{80}\) | 7      | 0.288 ± 0.023           | -16.2 ± 0.8                                       | 1067.2 ± 287.7                                   | 23.3 ± 2.3  8.3 ± 2.1          |
| S\(_{20}\)F\(_{20}\) V\(_{60}\) | 8      | 0.36 ± 0.025            | 849.6 ± 59.5                                      | 250.8 ± 108.6                                    | 4.3 ± 0.4   2.3 ± 0.6          |
| S\(_{20}\)F\(_{40}\) V\(_{40}\) | 9      | 0.288 ± 0.02            | 863.9 ± 60.5                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 2.7 ± 0.6   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_{20}\)F\(_{60}\) V\(_{20}\) | 10     | 0.234 ± 0.016           | 1034.6 ± 41.4                                     | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 3.3 ± 1.5   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_{20}\)F\(_{80}\) V\(_{0}\) | 11     | 0.036 ± 0.003           | -420.8 ± 33.7                                     | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 0.0 ± 0.0   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_{40}\)F\(_0\) V\(_{60}\) | 12     | 0.36 ± 0.025            | 840.9 ± 58.9                                      | 501.5 ± 108.6                                    | 24.3 ± 6.0  10.3 ± 4.2         |
| S\(_{40}\)F\(_{20}\) V\(_{40}\) | 13     | 0.36 ± 0.025            | 1433.3 ± 100.3                                    | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 12.3 ± 3.8  8.3 ± 3.2          |
| S\(_{40}\)F\(_{40}\) V\(_{20}\) | 14     | 0.216 ± 0.015           | 897.3 ± 44.9                                      | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 6.3 ± 2.1   2.3 ± 2.5          |
| S\(_{40}\)F\(_{60}\) V\(_{0}\) | 15     | 0.036 ± 0.003           | -495.9 ± 34.7                                     | 0.0 ± 0.0                                        | 0.0 ± 0.0   0.0 ± 0.0          |
| S\(_{60}\)F\(_0\) V\(_{40}\) | 16     | 0.36 ± 0.029            | 1554.6 ± 124.4                                    | 627.9 ± 108.8                                    | 8.3 ± 3.5   5.0 ± 2.6          |
| S\(_{60}\)F\(_{20}\) V\(_{20}\) | 17     | 0.288 ± 0.02            | 1849.7 ± 129.5                                    | 124.4 ± 107.8                                    | 2.7 ± 1.5   2.3 ± 2.1          |
|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| \( S_{60F_{40V_0}} \) | 18    | 0.028 ± 0.002 | -250.5 ± 20.0 | 0.0 ± 0.0 | 0.0 ± 0.0 | 0.0 ± 0.0 |
| \( S_{80F_{0V_{20}}} \) | 19    | 0.108 ± 0.005 | 236.1 ± 11.8  | 0.0 ± 0.0 | 24.7 ± 4.9 | 0.0 ± 0.0 |
| \( S_{80F_{20V_0}} \) | 20    | 0.027 ± 0.002 | -78.1 ± 3.1   | 0.0 ± 0.0 | 15.7 ± 3.2 | 0.0 ± 0.0 |
| \( S_{100F_{0V_0}} \) | 21    | 0.018 ± 0.001 | 0.0 ± 0.0     | 0.0 ± 0.0 | 22.3 ± 3.5 | 1.3 ± 0.6 |
| S.Em (±)          |       | 0.087       | 0.011        | 33.0      | 1.9        | 0.9    |
| C.D. (0.05)       |       | 0.247       | 0.031        | 94.1      | 5.5        | 2.7    |

### Figures

**Figure 1**

Meteorological parameters of the experimental site during March to June 2017

![Figure 1](image)

**Figure 2**

a) Anterior and b) posterior part of Rhabditid under trinocular microscope

![Figure 2](image)
Figure 3

a) Anterior and b) posterior part of Dorylaimid under trinocular microscope
Figure 4

Variations in substrate organic carbon (SOC), OC% between initial and 30 DAS as influenced by treatment combinations in rice nursery (vertical bars indicate standard errors) (1: S0F0V100, 2: S0F20V80, 3: S0F40V60, 4: S0F60V40, 5: S0F80V20, 6: S0F100V0, 7: S20F0V80, 8: S20F20V60, 9: S20F40V40, 10: S20F60V20, 11: S20F80V0, 12: S40F0V60, 13: S40F20V40, 14: S40F40V20, 15: S40F60V0, 16: S60F0V40, 17: S60F20V20, 18: S60F40V0, 19: S80F0V20, 20: S80F20V0 and 21: S100F0V0)