ABSTRACT

At present, in developed countries, including Uzbekistan, the system of coordinated control in the fight against agricultural pests is widely used. Its essence is to protect the crop by using agrotechnical, mechanical, physical methods of pest control, mainly using methods of biological control, which are harmless to the environment, humans and organisms, and the use of chemical methods as an exception when necessary. In recent years, the ecological situation in rural areas has been improved as a result of the use of a combined protection system in cotton, wheat and other crops, i.e., the method of biological control, which is its core.

KEYWORDS

Harm, morphology, larva, development, biology, control measures, entomophage.

INTRODUCTION

The advantage of the biological control method is that the cultivation of agricultural products without the use of chemicals, i.e., pesticides, ensures the purity of the environment, as well as the preservation of many species of living things that occur in nature.

Researchers of the Scientific Center for Plant Quarantine under the State Inspectorate for Plant Quarantine under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan are conducting in-depth study.

In particular, the comstock worm (pseudococcus comstocki kuw) is a dangerous quarantine pest of orchards, subtropical crops...
and various agricultural crops. Its ancient homeland is Japan and China, and entomologist S. Kuvan described the worm in 1902 and named it Comstock Worm in honor of the American entomologist Comstock. Currently, this pest is widespread in many countries in Asia, Africa, Australia, America and Europe. In particular, it is widespread in the Central Asian Republics, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine.

The Comstock worm was first detected in Uzbekistan in August 1939 at the Jarariq Experimental Farm of the Central Asian Silk Institute near Tashkent in large-leaved mulberry seedlings imported from Japan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Comstock worms infect more than 300 different plants. Pomegranate, quince, apple, pear, peach, as well as mulberries from fruit trees cause severe damage. They settle in large colonies on the trunk, branches and leaves of the tree and absorb the sap of the tree, drying out its medicine and weakening its growth. In severely damaged trees, swellings appear, young branches dry out and the leaves fall off. Comstock worm also penetrated into the soil to a depth of 5–6 cm, damaging the plant, flowers, fruits, and also sucked the upper part of the roots. Occurs in some cases at a depth of up to 40 cm. The worms usually feed along the veins in the lower part of the leaf.

Comstock worms cause great damage, especially to mulberry trees. Damaged mulberry leaves turn yellow and fall off into a haze. Mulberry leaves contaminated with Comstock worm waste are considered harmful to silkworms. A cup of pomegranate fruit also helps in the good development of the comstock worm and its eggs and leads to a sharp decrease in productivity.

It is very important to develop and use effective biological control measures against Comstock worms. To this end, the Plant Quarantine Research Center conducted experiments to increase the entomophagous Pseudaphycus (Pseudaphycus malinus), one of its effective cousins, and its use in pest control.

Pseudaphycus is an insect with a yellow body with a bell-shaped white spot, the body size of the female is about 0.75-1.0 mm. The top of the head and chest are yellow. The mustache is brown, the tip is white with a beak. The front wing is clear, the middle is slightly blurred. The appearance of both sexes is the same, but the body size of male individuals is slightly smaller.

The pseudoficus lives 5 to 12 days, laying an average of 60 to 150 eggs during its lifetime. The comstock lays its eggs inside the worm's body. The egg looks like a white dumbbell. Pseudophicus paralyzes more than 20 comstock worms and develops from 2 to 25 pseudophicus larvae in the body of one comstock worm. The whole developmental stage of pseudophic entomophagy takes place inside the worm's body. Mature insects gnaw on the worm's shell and fly out. From each worm, 7–10 mature insects develop and fly, which in turn infect and kill other worms. Pseudophyxus causes comstock worms of all ages. Infected comstock worms continue to feed for the first few days and their appearance is no different from healthy worms. After 5–6 days, they lose their waxy crust, stop feeding and become restless. It accumulates in secluded places, bark cracks, pits, between the soil, around the roots of trees, where it perishes and takes the form of a mummy. The mummy is oval in shape, shiny yellow in its new state, then begins to darken.
The pseudophycus becomes a fungus in the mummy (the body of a dead comstock worm).

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

A single mummy microscope propagated in the biolaboratory of the Scientific Center for Plant Quarantine revealed the presence of 15 to 18 mature insects of pseudophycus. They were arranged in 2 rows parallel to the body of the comstock worm. We separated a pseudophyxus from a mummy and observed its morphology. The appearance of the pseudoficus was brown, and the body consisted of the head, chest, and abdomen. He had a pair of whiskers on his head, and at each joint of his mustache was a thorn-like growth. The thorax had 3 pairs of legs and 1 pair of wings, and the wings were found to be transparent in appearance and the abdomen to be oval-oblong in shape.

In our observations, Pseudophicus entomophagy has been shown to infect comstock worms of all ages and to damage its eggs as well.
Infection of pseudoficus with comstock worm eggs growing in pumpkin fruit

In this picture we can see that the eggs of the comstock worm, which is propagated in the pumpkin fruit, are infected with pseudoficus. The eggs of the comstock worm infested with pseudophycus are separated from the wax-covered sac and remain as a powder. When the infected comstock worm eggs are viewed under a microscope, we can see that the internal fluid of the egg has emptied and the outer and inner parts have darkened and lost their transparent state. The outside of the undamaged comstock worm eggs is yellow, the inside is covered with a turbid liquid, and is transparent in appearance.

Microscopic view of comstock worm eggs infested by pseudoficus
In the biolaboratory, comstock worms infested with pseudoficus are made of special paper to make mummies. Infected comstock worms accumulate in the larvae and take the form of mummies. When we observed mummies collected on special parchment papers under a microscope, it was observed in our research that comstock worms of all ages have become mummies and that many pseudoficus entomophagous are developing in these mummies. Among them there are many mummies with hollow skin. This condition means that the pseudophycus has developed and come out of the mummy.

Pseudoficus entomophagy is fully developed in mummies, microscopic view of the emptied state of mummies

Pseudoficus entomophagy isolated from mummy

Pseudoficus infection of comstock worms from 1 to 2 years of age (front and back view)
An advanced state of a single entomophage in the body of a fully developed comstock worm

The dome-shaped state of two entomophages developing in the body of the Comstock worm

Among the mummies we observed under a microscope, we encountered an entomaphagous larva that had just begun to develop. It looked like a dome and was covered in liquid. In another mummy, the entomophages were composed of several fungi, which were yellowish-red in appearance. This means that the inner fluid of the fungus is filled with a harder substance and turns into an adult pseudophyxus (imago).
Entomophagous larva, which has just begun to develop in the mummy

Growing inside the fungus entomophagous larvae

Efficacy of pseudophilicus tekinhorus when applied in different proportions against comstock worm larvae

| № | Experiment options | Repetition | Number of Comstock larvae and pseudoficus (pcs.) |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
|    |                   |           | larva | mummy |
| 1. | Total when the    | 1         | 110   | -     |
|    | ratio of          | 2         | 68    | -     |
|    | pseudophilicus    | 3         | 101   | -     |
|    | comstock worm     | average   | 279   | -     |
|    | larvae is set at  |           |       |       |
|    | 1:10              |           |       |       |
| 2. | Total when the    | 1         | 84    | -     |
|    | ratio of          | 2         | 52    | -     |
|    | pseudophilicus    | 3         | 61    | -     |
|    | comstock worm     | average   | 197   | -     |

The USA Journals Volume 02 Issue 08-2020
### Number of Comstock larvae and pseudoficus (pcs.)

| Put pseudophicus | Larva | Mummified pupae | Efficacy of pseudoficus free % |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11               | 26    | 84               | 76,36                         |
| 7                | 8     | 60               | 88,23                         |
| 10               | 2     | 99               | 98,02                         |
| 28               | 36    | 243              | 87,1                          |
| 6                | 12    | 72               | 85,71                         |
| 3                | 11    | 41               | 78,85                         |
| 4                | 12    | 49               | 80,33                         |
| 13               | 35    | 162              | 82,23                         |

### Larvae Ratio

| 3. Total when the ratio of pseudophycus comstock worm larvae is set at 1:20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Average |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------|
|                                                                          | 89| 54| 75| 218     |

| 4. Total control | 1 | 2 | 3 | Average |
|------------------|---|---|---|---------|
|                  | 96| 57| 83| 236     |
RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The ratio of entomophagous host (comstock worm) in the fight against pseudophyxxus comstock worm is 1:10; Tested under laboratory conditions at 1:15 and 1:20 ratios. According to the test results, pseudoficus and comstock worm 1:10; When applied at a ratio of 1:15, it was observed that the number of pests decreased by 87.1 and 82.23% over 15 days under laboratory conditions. At a ratio of 1:20, it decreased by 73.39% compared to the control option in 15 days. From the results obtained, it can be concluded that high efficiency in pest control is achieved if the pseudoficus master ratio is applied in the ratios of 1:10 and 1:15.

The study of the morphology and bioecology of pseudophicus entomophagy, a relative of the comstock worm, which is an internal quarantine pest in the Republic of Uzbekistan, has led to the conclusion that the survival, reproduction and distribution of these natural insects are interrelated. It should be noted that the large-scale organization of entomophagous breeding in biolaboratory conditions, the study of other new species of entomophagous breeding methods in the fight against natural predators remains a requirement of today.

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