

STUDIES ON FOOD PREFERENCE OF *RHYZOPERTHA DOMINICA* (COL. CURCULIONIDAE)

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Abstract

On 5 different kinds of stored foods (wheat, barley, maize, paddy and pea) *Rhyzopertha dominica* was reared under laboratory conditions.

The adult insects were released in a series of test tubes containing different kinds of grain and put them in desiccator and all sets were kept in an incubator running at 30° centigrade. After each 24 hours all insects were collected out from the tubes and counted.

The result of this study shows that *R. dominica* prefers respectively wheat, barley, paddy, and maize. Peas were never attacked by *R. dominica*.

Importance and Distribution

Referring to the different samples of stored food product, collected from the localities of wide range of Iran. It was found that central and southern provinces of the country are most suitable for *R. dominica*.

Material and Method

In order to investigate the preference of food materials to *R. dominica* the following experiments were set up.

First of all we reared *R. dominica* from the egg batch to have enough adult insects were released in each tube containing 20 grams of food material and experiment replicated 5 times. Tubes (containing insects and food) were placed in two desiccators and the desiccators were put in an incubator running at 30° centigrade. After each 24 hours insects were counted and the flour and waste material weight.

Results

According to average number of the adult insects and the weight of waste materials produced

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by the pest after feeding, it was clear that *R. dominica* prefers mostly wheat and barley, paddy and maize come after. Peas never been attacked by *R. dominica*.

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