

PERMANENT REFERENCE

PESTS OF BRINJAL (*SOLANUM MELONGENA*. L) AND THEIR
MANAGEMENT

BY

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ABSTRACT

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) is a popular vegetable crop, attacked by many pests. The control of certain important pests of brinjal has become difficult. Therefore a literature survey was carried out on the work in relation to pests of brinjal and their control measures.

This survey revealed that the brinjal plant and its products are affected by a wide variety of pests. The important pest species are shoot and fruit Borer, whitefly and Epilachna Beetle. However the pest incidence varies from country to country.

Although *Leucinodes orbonalis* is considered a serious pest in many countries, it was found that this is not a serious problem in Malaysia and Indonesia.

On the other hand Thrips *palmi* considered as a serious pest in these two countries is a minor pest in the other countries. More over the whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* which is considered as a serious pest of brinjal in Srilanka specially during yala season does not pose a serious threat in other countries.

With regard to control measures a wide spectrum of insecticide were being used against these pests. However, the development of resistance in insect pests to many insecticides used have led the scientists to divert their attention to other control measures such as the use of resistance varieties, pheromones, biological control and Integrated pest Management (IPM).

Although scientists from India are successful in producing moderately resistant varieties such as pusakranti, A61, H4, against *Leucinodes orbonalis*, the resistant effect of this variety deteriorated with time due to the development of different biotypes. At present, scientists at the Asian vegetable research and development institute (AVRDC), Taiwan pay more attention to produce resistant varieties against these pests.

Efforts are also being made to enhance the efficiency of the larval parasitoids, *Eriborus sinicus* against *Leucinodes orbonalis*. Botanical pesticides such as Neem and other plant products are being used against the insect pests of brinjal.

The survey indicated clearly that the new trends in brinjal pest management is through IPM as practised in rice and other vegetable crops at the moments. The future pest control strategies would be based on the lines of integrated pest Management (IPM), utilizing resistant varieties, selective use of chemicals and other traditional practices to overcome pest problems in brinjal.

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