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Efficacy of *Beauveria bassiana* against Gram pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera* Hubner) of Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* Linn.)

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ABSTRACT : *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) is an important pest of many economically important crops in Indian subcontinent. Larvae destroy both foliage and fruits of plants. Rapid development of resistance to insecticides has made this insect to acquire status of a key pest. A field study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of entomopathogenic fungus (*Beauveria bassiana,* Balsamo) against *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) in SHIATS, Allahabad. When five different concentrations (0.15%, 0.20%, 0.25, 0.30% and 0.35%) were sprayed against larvae of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner), a dose dependent mortality was observed that went up to 74.75 percent with highest dose of 0.35% . Test of *Beauveria bassiana* on *H. armigera* revealed percent mortality significant at 1 and 5 % level with different doses. Mortality started after two to three days of treatment and larval death were generally through various morphological deformities in body parts. The treated larvae died mainly due to spread of fungal infections into different body parts. Severity of infection was started by development of abnormal body parts, fragile skin, entire body covered by fungal mycelia and formation of intermediate stages indicating that chitin is the main target of fungal attack.

Key Words: *Helicoverpa armigera*, *Beauveria bassiana,* chickpea and mortality.