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EFFECT OF INSECTICIDES ON THE POPULATION OF ENDOPARASITOID CECIDOMYIIDS

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ABSTRACT : Safflower, *Carthamus tinctorius* Linn. is grown as major oil crops of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. Saffola, a refined oil of safflower is recommended for heart patient because it contains 78% linoleic acids, which reduce cholesterol level in the blood. This crop is being heavily infested by safflower aphids. Aphids suck the plant sap from the tender part of the plants causing serious damage. Various insecticides like Monocrotophos, Endosulphan, Chloropyriphos, Fenvalrate, Methyl-o-demeton, Malathion, Formathion, Dimethoate, Quinolphos and Metasystox etc. are being used for the control of aphids. These insecticides destroy aphids along with their cecidomyiid endoparasitoids, *Endaphis aphidimyza* (Shivpuje and Raodev) and *E. perfidus* Kieffer. Thus the population of the endoparasitoids is decreasing gradually. In 1988 the percentage of parasitism was recorded 32% in the field condition (Grover *et al.*, 1991) where as it was reduced to 13.6% only in 2009.

Key Words: Safflower, aphid, insecticides, *Endaphis aphidimyza*, gall midges.