

Efficacy of entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) against legume pod borer, *Maruca vitrata* Fabricius (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

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ABSTRACT: The efficacy of six native entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN), *Steinernema carpocapsae*, *S. masoodi*, *S. seemae*, *S. mushtaqi*, *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 04) and *Osccheius amsactae* were tested against legume pod borer, *M. vitrata*. Multiplication of tested EPNs on the insect were also evaluated. Among the tested species of EPN, *S. masoodi* was found more pathogenic to *M. vitrata*, as it brought about cent percent mortality within 72 h post exposure, followed by *S. seemae* and *S. carpocapsae*, after 96 h. *S. mushtaqi*, *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 04) and *O. amsactae* brought about cent percent mortality within 120h. In case of mass production of infective juveniles of tested EPN, species from this insect showed highest yield of *O. amsactae*, followed by *S. carpocapsae*, whereas the lesser number juveniles of *S. mushtaqi* and *Steinernema* sp. (IIPR 04) produced from the body of the *M. vitrata* larva. This opens a new hope of utilizing of EPN in the management of legume pod borer, *Maruca vitrata*.

Key Words: Entomopathogenic nematodes, infectivity, mass production, *Maruca vitrata*.