

ABSTRACT

The bioactivity of two organochlorines and six organophosphorous insecticides were bioassayed on adult *T. confusum* in 10 types of Jamaican soils: Yallahs sand (YS), Caymanas loamy sand (CLS), Valda gravelly loamy sand (VGLS), Yallahs sandy loam (YSL), Marvelly sandy loam (MSL), Halls Delight channery loam (HDCL), Ewarton Linstead clay (ELC), Killancholly clay (KC), St. Ann clay (SAC) and Charlton Linstead clay (CLC).

The relative toxicity of insecticides varied in effect in soil types. Chlorpyrifos was the most toxic insecticide in all soil types and all insecticides were most toxic in YS. Generally, the inactivation of insecticide was more in clays > loam > sandy loam > loamy sand. However, the magnitude of inactivation varied with soil type and insecticide.

All the insecticides were generally more toxic at soil moisture levels of 12.5 to 22.5% than at the 5 to 10%, particularly in clay soils. For diazinon, the maximum differences in the LC_{50} values were 465-, 332-, 116-, 74-, 30-, 23- and 19- fold in SAC, MSL, ELC, CLS, CLC, VGLS and YSL respectively and less than 16-fold in the other soils; for chlorpyrifos, 108- and 78- fold, in ELC and SAC respectively, and less than 16-fold in the others; for diethyl bromophos, 103-, 67-, 41-, 31- and 24- fold in SAC, CLS, HDCL, CLC and VGLS respectively, and below 15-fold in the others; for chlordane, 28-, 20-, 13-, and 10- fold in SAC, CLC, VGLS and CLS, respectively and < 10-fold in the others; for dimethyl bromophos, 36-fold in ELC and < 12-fold in the others; for dieldrin, 27-fold in ELC and < 11-fold in others; for mevinphos, 20- in ELC and 1 to 5- fold in the others; and for malathion, 3 to 9- fold in all the soil types.

The toxicity of all 8 insecticides in different soils at 10% moisture level and at 12, 20, 25, 28 and 34°C revealed a positive correlation with temperature, but the degree of effect depended upon

the insecticide, soil type and temperature. Chlordane was 627-fold more effective at 34°C than 12°C in ELC, followed by MSL > YSL > VGLS > KC (100- to 57- fold), CLS > HDCL > SAC > YS (42- to 32-fold) > CLC (9-fold). The temperature effect on dieldrin toxicity was 147-fold in CLC, 92-fold in VGLS and 5 to 62-fold in the other soils.

Among the OPs, the bioefficacy of diethyl bromophos was increased the most by higher temperatures, the differences being 359- to 239-fold in ELC > SAC > KC, 60- to 42- fold in YS > CLS > MLS > YSL, 32- to 22-fold in HDCL > CLC > VGLS. Diazinon's toxicity was increased by 82.4-fold in ELC by the highest temperature but only 2 to 20- fold in the other soils. Malathion and chlorpyrifos registered only 2 to 25- fold increase in toxicity at 34°C, while mevinphos was least affected.

Cations (10, 30 or 50mM of potassium chloride, sodium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and aluminium chloride, enhanced the toxicity of dieldrin to varying degrees in clays, sandy loam or loamy sand; maximum increases (about 5- to 7- fold) were recorded for dieldrin with Ca in SAC and Al in ELC and for chlorpyrifos with Ca and Al in ELC. The cations had little effect on the toxicity of diazinon.

The persistence of three doses of the eight insecticides and carbaryl ($LC_{30} \times 4$, $LC_{50} \times 4$ and $LC_{90} \times 4$) on a particular soil at 10% moisture level showed dose-dependent response. The order of persistence was carbaryl > chlordane > dieldrin > organophosphorous compounds. Generally, the clays retained residues longer than the other soils.

The Lt_{50} values (days) for the highest dose ($LC_{90} \times 4$) in YS, CLS, VGLS, YSL, MSL, HDCL, ELC, KC, SAC and CLC were 123.6, 127, 155, 196, 342, 365, 344, 207, 240 and 246 for dieldrin; 69, 105, 66, 588, 1186, 452, 307, 726, 686 and 687 for chlordane; 22, 6, 7, 5, 15, 5, 5, 18, 6 and 9 for chlorpyrifos; 7, 6, 4, 3, 12, 8, 24, 15, 9 and 22 for diazinon; 2, 3, 1, 2, 2, 3, 2, 9, 2, and 2 for mevinphos; 60, 25, 12, 101, 18, 48, 91, 58, 24 and 52 for malathion; 17, 23, 17, 25, 25, 7, 19, 15, 20 and 28 for diethyl bromophos; 19, 15, 9, 12, 34, 20, 15, 27, 16 and 29 for dimethyl bromophos; 182, 155, 700, 684, 556, 80, 413, 469, 211 and 114 for carbaryl, respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Trends in the seasonal population fluctuations in the insect, mite and nematode fauna in some Jamaican soils and the effects of some insecticides were also studied.

Suggesting the project and under whose sustained guidance and supervision, numerous discussions and critical suggestions this work was pursued. Similar sentiments are expressed to Professor G. Sidrak for the offering of critical technical advice in the planning of these experiments and in the selection of soil types; to Dr. T. Miyata of Nagoya University, Japan, for his useful suggestions, and to Dr. C. R. Harris, Canada Department of Agriculture, London, Ontario, for advice in the planning of the experiments and for providing useful literature.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Professor I. Grobby, Head, Department of Zoology for providing the facilities; the SRC for granting a fellowship for 3 years through IOM 1 for performing the studies; Dr. A. Sangster of College of Arts Science and Technology (CAST) for encouragement to pursue the progress of studies and the granting of leave of absence from duties; and to Dr. E. I. C. Iowa, Ministry of Agriculture, for continued encouragement and making the time available for the writing of this manuscript.

Many thanks to Mr. Dave Harkin and Ms. Julian Hickling, Nematology Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, for assisting with the nematode identification; Dr. T. Durr, Institute of Zoology, Dr. J. Parnell, Zoology Department, University of the West Indies, the staff of the Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and the Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau, for assisting with insect identification.

Many individuals have provided help to the author during this work. Special mention are my fellow research students Dr. N. Singh, Dr. S. Garraway, Mrs. J. Reid and Miss D. Doyle with whom the author