

Toxicity and Some Biological Effects of Emamectin Benzoate, Novaluron and Diflubenzuron against Cotton Leafworm

Mervat H. A. Metayi¹, Moataza A. M. Ibrahim¹ and Dalia A. El-Deeb²

ABSTRACT

Toxicity and sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron were evaluated against the 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm (CLW). The joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron was carried out. Emamectin benzoate ($LC_{50} = 0.014 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) was 264.3 and 5707.1 times more toxic than novaluron ($LC_{50} = 3.7 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$) and diflubenzuron ($LC_{50} = 79.9 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$), respectively. Novaluron was approximately 21.6 times more toxic than diflubenzuron. After 24 hrs of exposure, all mixtures of emamectin benzoate (at LC_{10} or LC_{25}) with novaluron or diflubenzuron (at LC_{10} or LC_{25}) resulted in antagonistic effects with co-toxicity factors (CTFs) ranged between -25 to -700 except the mixture of emamectin benzoate at LC_{10} with novaluron at LC_{10} (CTF = 60). Mixtures of emamectin benzoate at LC_{10} with novaluron at LC_{10} and emamectin benzoate at LC_{25} with novaluron at LC_{25} resulted in potentiating effects after 48, 72 and 96 hrs of exposure. On the other hand, all mixtures of emamectin benzoate with diflubenzuron resulted in antagonistic effects. Emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron at the two sublethal concentrations reduced average larval weight, average time to the pupation, %pupation, pupal mean weight and %adult emergence compared to control. Results of this study verified the lethal and sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on the larval stage of *S. littoralis*, which negatively affect some biological parameters and insect population can be negatively affected. Emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron can be used for *S. littoralis* control and in resistance management programs, because their mode of action is different from pyrethroid, carbamate and organophosphate insecticides.

Keywords: Biological Effects, Emamectin benzoate, Novaluron, Diflubenzuron, Cotton Leafworm

INTRODUCTION

Cotton leafworm, *Spodoptera littoralis* (Boisduval), is one of the most destructive agricultural lepidopterous pests of cotton and vegetable plants in Egypt (Hatem *et al.*, 2009), causing considerable damage by feeding on leaves, fruiting points, flower buds and, occasionally, also on bolls. So, it requires several insecticide applications to control. In Egypt, management of CLW has depended on preserving and extending the insecticide efficacy based on rotating various insecticides including organophosphates, carbamates, insect growth regulators, and pyrethroids every year

(Temerak, 2002). Extensive use of insecticides has selected many insecticide resistant insect populations causing a severe problem in pest management programs of the world. So, there is a greater need to develop alternative or additional techniques, which would allow a rational use of pesticides and provides adequate crop protection for sustainable food, feed and fiber production. Among the most promising alternative to conventional insecticides, is the avermectin insecticide group and insect growth regulators.

Emamectin benzoate is novel semi-synthetic derivative of the natural product abamectin from the avermectin family of 16-membered macrocyclic lactones. This epi-methyl amino derivative is very effective against a broad spectrum of lepidopteran pests with good field efficacy and lack of cross-resistance with other commercially-used pesticides (White *et al.*, 1997). IGRs were developed to mimic, block or otherwise interact with the hormonal system of insects (Oetken *et al.*, 2004). These include the juvenile hormone analogues, the ecdysone agonists and the chitin synthesis inhibitors (CSIs) (Graf, 1993; Tunaz and Uygun, 2004). Among the chitin synthesis inhibitors, acylureas (BPUs) are gaining importance in insect pest control because they are relatively harmless to natural enemies (Furlong *et al.*, 1994). The use of insecticides may result in multiple sublethal effects on insect pests, along with direct mortality, because of the different doses with which individual insects come into contact in the field (Singh and Marwaha, 2000). Therefore, the objectives of the present study were to investigate the toxicity of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm. The compatibility of mixing emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron was carried out. Finally, the sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on some biological aspects of *S. littoralis* were also studied.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental insect: Larvae of *S. littoralis* were reared on castor bean leaves under lab conditions ($27 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, RH 65 %) for several years avoiding exposure to any type of pesticides according to the method of Eldefrawi *et al.*, (1964). The second instar larvae (average of

¹Plant Protection Research Institute, Arc, Sabahia, Alexandria, Egypt.

²Central Pesticides Laboratory, Sabahia Station, Alexandria Egypt.

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weight was 2.3 ± 0.1 mg per larva) were used in the bioassay.

Tested insecticides: Emamectin benzoate (Basha® 1.9%EC) was provided by Elhelb for Pesticides and Chemicals Co., novaluron (Roxy® 10%EC) was provided by Mytrade Co., and diflubenzuron (Diflurite® 25%WP) was provided by Misr for Agricultural Development Co.

Toxicity of the tested insecticides against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* and determination of sublethal concentrations: Toxicity of the fore-mentioned formulated insecticides against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* was evaluated. Homogenous pieces of the castor bean leaves were dipped in a series of the insecticides concentrations for 10sec., held vertically to allow excess solution to drip off and dried at room temperature. Treated castor bean leaf pieces were transferred to a plastic cups, and the appropriate number (10 larvae in each cup) of starved larvae were placed. Each concentration was replicated three times. Mortality percentages were recorded after 96 hrs of treatment, corrected according to Abbott equation (Abbott, 1925) and subjected to probit analysis (Finney, 1971).

Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis*: Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* was investigated. Emamectin benzoate was mixed with novaluron or diflubenzuron at different concentrations. LC₂₅ of emamectin benzoate was mixed with the LC₂₅ or LC₁₀ of novaluron or diflubenzuron. Also, LC₁₀ of emamectin benzoate was mixed with LC₂₅ or LC₁₀ of novaluron or diflubenzuron. Three control groups were subjected to calculate the expected mortalities. Co-toxicity factors (Mansour *et al.*, 1966) were calculated as follows:

Co-toxicity factor (CTF) =

$$\frac{\text{observed \% mortality} - \text{expected \% mortality}}{\text{expected \% mortality}} \times 100$$

Table 1. Toxicity of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm after 96 hrs of exposure

| Treatment | LC ₅₀ (mg L ⁻¹) confidence limits | LC ₂₅ (mg L ⁻¹) confidence limits | LC ₁₀ (mg L ⁻¹) confidence limits | Slope ±SE |
|--------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Emamectin benzoate | 0.014 (0.0087 – 0.021) | 0.007 (0.0025 – 0.0082) | 0.004 (0.0007 – 0.004) | 2.4± 0.27 |
| Novaluron | 3.7 (3.0 - 4.7) | 1.07 (0.8 – 1.4) | 0.36 (0.201 – 0.53) | 1.27± 0.13 |
| Diflubenzuron | 79.9 (59.21-110.8) | 19.4 (13.29 – 26.8) | 5.4 (3.1 - 8.4) | 1.09± 0.09 |

This factor was used to categorize the results into three categories as follow: Co-toxicity factors $\geq +20$ meant potentiation; co-toxicity factors < -20 meant antagonism; and co-toxicity factors between -20 and $+20$ meant additive effect.

Effects of sublethal concentrations of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on some biological parameters of *S. littoralis*:

Castor bean leaves were soaked in determined LC₂₅ and LC₁₀ equivalent concentrations for tested insecticides. Four hundred 2nd instar larvae (2.3 ± 0.1 mg / larva) in 4 replicates was used for each treatment and provided with treated leaves. After 24 hrs, surviving larvae were transferred to jars containing fresh untreated leaves and observed daily for pupation and adult emergence. Pupae were sexed and weighed 24 hrs after formation. Larval and pupal durations were determined. Also, larval and pupal weights, percentages of pupation and adult emergence were recorded.

Statistical analysis: Estimates of LC₅₀ and their 95% fiducial limits were obtained using the POLO program (Russell *et al.*, 1977) based on Finney (1971). The criterion used to estimate the differences between LC₅₀ values was non-overlap of their 95% confidence intervals. All other quantitative estimations were replicated four times and the values are expressed as mean \pm standard error. The SAS 8.0 software was used for analysis of the data obtained from each experiment and the means were tested for significant differences by Duncan's multiple range tests at $P = 0.05$.

RESULTS

Toxicity of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis*:

Susceptibility of 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* to emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron after 96 hrs of exposure is presented in Table (1). Emamectin benzoate (LC₅₀ = 0.014 mg L⁻¹) was approximately 264.3 and 5707.1 times more toxic than novaluron (LC₅₀ = 3.7 mg L⁻¹) and diflubenzuron (LC₅₀ = 79.9 mg L⁻¹), respectively. Novaluron was approximately 21.6 times more toxic than diflubenzuron (Table 1).

The LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ values after 96 hrs of exposure were 0.004 and 0.007 mg L⁻¹ for emamectin benzoate, 0.36 and 1.07 mg L⁻¹ for novaluron, and for diflubenzuron were 5.4 and 19.4 mg L⁻¹, respectively (Table 1).

Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis*:

To determine the effect of applying mixtures of emamectin benzoate at concentrations equivalent to LC₁₀ or LC₂₅ with novaluron or diflubenzuron at LC₁₀ or LC₂₅, 50% or 35% or 20% mortality was expected to result when the mixture was used. Since the average weights of the 2nd instar larvae used in each test varied, thus, the expected mortality for the concentrations applied in every test varied accordingly. So, the expected mortality was calculated for each insecticide in the mixture in every test by treating the larvae by each one alone. Therefore, the expected mortality for the mixture of two insecticides was the sum of the mortalities of each of the concentrations used in the mixture. The joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron at different concentrations at different exposure times is shown in Tables (2, 3, 4 and 5). After 24 hrs of exposure, all mixtures of emamectin benzoate (at LC₁₀ or LC₂₅) with novaluron or diflubenzuron (at LC₁₀ or LC₂₅) resulted in antagonistic effect with co-toxicity factors (CTFs) ranged between -25 to -100 except the mixture of emamectin benzoate at LC₁₀ with novaluron at LC₁₀ (CTF = 60) (Table 2). Mixture of emamectin benzoate at LC₁₀ with novaluron at LC₁₀ resulted in potentiating effects with CTFs 100, 33.3 and 95.6 after 48, 72 and 96 hrs of exposure (Tables 3, 4 and 5). Also, mixture of emamectin benzoate at LC₂₅ with novaluron at LC₂₅ resulted in potentiating effect with CTFs of 41.3, 46.9 and 32.4 after 48, 72 and 96 hrs of exposure (Tables 3, 4 and 5). On the other hand, all mixtures of emamectin benzoate with diflubenzuron resulted in antagonistic effects after all exposure times (Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on some biological aspects of *S. littoralis*:

Sublethal effects of tested insecticides against *S. littoralis* larvae are presented in Tables (6 and 7). The average weight of treated larvae was decreased significantly compared to control during the observation period. It is clear that, the higher concentration of all tested insecticides (LC₂₅) were significantly the highest in the effect on the larval weight. When larvae were treated with emamectin benzoate at LC₂₅ (0.0074 mg L⁻¹), the larval weight averages were 35.6, 129.7 and 430.3 mg / larva compared to 47.7, 189.2 and 610.6 mg

/ larva in control after 5, 10 and 15 days of treatment, respectively. The larval weight averages were 37.1, 140.2 and 434.5 mg / larva, and 40.4, 145.5 and 439.0 mg / larva when larvae were treated with LC₂₅ of novaluron (1.07 mg L⁻¹) and diflubenzuron (19.4 mg L⁻¹) after 5, 10 and 15 days of treatment, respectively (Table 6).

The average time of larval duration at concentrations equivalent to the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of novaluron and diflubenzuron treatments were significantly longer than those of control treatment. These times were 23.2 and 23.9 days for novaluron and 22.8 and 23.7 days for diflubenzuron at LC₁₀ and LC₂₅, respectively, where it was 17.4 days for control. Larval duration for larvae given concentrations equivalent to the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of emamectin benzoate treatments did not differ significantly compared to larvae given control treatment (Table 6).

Sublethal concentrations of tested insecticides had a considerable effect on %pupation (Table 6). The LC₂₅ treatment of novaluron gave the lowest pupation percentage 62.7% compared to 98.4% in control treatment. Also, significant decrease in pupation percentage was achieved with the LC₁₀ of novaluron (73.6%), the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of emamectin benzoate (82.6 and 78.6%, respectively) and the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of diflubenzuron (77.1 and 70.3%, respectively) compared to control treatment (98.4%).

As shown in Table (7), all treatments significantly suppressed the pupal mean weight compared to control treatment. The weight averages of pupae were 280.2 and 261.1 mg / pupa at the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of emamectin benzoate treatments, respectively, compared to 298.5 mg / pupa at control treatment. In case of LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of novaluron treatments, pupae weight averages were 275.6 and 253.4 mg / pupa, respectively. Finally, pupae weight averages were 273.6 and 256.5 mg / pupa in the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of diflubenzuron treatments, respectively. However, pupal duration did not change significantly in all treatments compared to control (Table 7). Reduction in the adult emergence was significantly achieved by all treatments. Adult emergence was 89.4 and 77.5% in the LC₁₀ and LC₂₅ of emamectin benzoate treatments, respectively, compared to 96.0% in the control treatments. The LC₂₅ of both novaluron and diflubenzuron achieved the highest reduction in the adult emergence, where the adult emergence was 66.4 and 68.3%, respectively (Table 7). On the other hand, pupal duration did not differ significantly in all insecticides treatments compared to control treatment (Table 7).

Table 2. Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm after 48 hrs of exposure

| Treatments | Expected % Mortality | Observed% Mortality | CTF |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| E* .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 2 | 5 | 60 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 10 | 4 | -60 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 12 | 0 | -100 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 22 | 16 | -27.3 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 1 | 0 | -100 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 5 | 4 | -25 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 12 | 0 | -100 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 17 | 8 | -64.7 |

*E = emamectin

Table 3. Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm after 72 hrs of exposure

| Treatment | Expected % Mortality | Observed% Mortality | CTF |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| E* .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 18.3 | 12 | -34.4 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 20 | 8 | -60 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 28.3 | 40 | 41.3 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 13 | 0 | -100 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 25 | 20 | -20 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 23 | 8 | -65.2 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 35 | 8 | -77.1 |

*E = emamectin

Table 4. Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm after 96 hrs of exposure

| Treatment | Expected % Mortality | Observed% Mortality | CTF |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| E* .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 20 | 30 | 33.3 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 33 | 16 | -51.5 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 39 | 8 | -81.6 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 49 | 72 | 46.9 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 20 | 8 | -60 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 28 | 20 | -28.6 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 36 | 12 | -67.7 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 44 | 8 | -81.8 |

*E = emamectin

Table 5. Joint toxic action of emamectin benzoate with novaluron or diflubenzuron against 2nd instar larvae of cotton leafworm after 120 hrs of exposure

| Treatment | Expected % Mortality | Observed% Mortality | CTF |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| E* .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 23 | 45 | 95.6 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 48 | 32 | -33.3 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₁₀ | 43 | 12 | -91.2 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Novaluron LC ₂₅ | 68 | 90 | 32.4 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 20 | 8 | -60 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₁₀ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 33 | 28 | -45.5 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₁₀ | 40 | 24 | -40 |
| E .Benzoate LC ₂₅ + Diflubenzuron LC ₂₅ | 53 | 8 | -84.9 |

*E = emamectin

Table 6. Effect of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron when applied to the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* on the larval weight gain, larval duration and %pupation

| Insecticide | Conc. (mg L ⁻¹) | Mean weight (mg/larva) ± SE after different days of treatment | | | Larval duration (days) ± SE | Pupation (%) ± SE |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | 5 | 10 | 15 | | |
| Control | - | 47.7a ± 1.5 | 189.2a ± 3.2 | 610.6a ± 5.9 | 17.4b ± 1.3 | 98.4a ± 1.0 |
| E*. benzoate | 0.004 | 41.2b ± 2.4 | 163.9c ± 5.2 | 518.2c ± 4.5 | 16.8b ± 0.6 | 82.6b ± 1.6 |
| | 0.007 | 35.6c ± 2.1 | 129.7e ± 1.9 | 430.3d ± 6.7 | 18.3b ± 1.5 | 78.6c ± 2.6 |
| Novaluron | 0.36 | 41.2b ± 1.4 | 169.3c ± 3.0 | 509.3c ± 3.8 | 23.2a ± 1.8 | 73.6de ± 1.2 |
| | 1.07 | 37.1c ± 0.7 | 140.2d ± 4.3 | 434.5d ± 3.6 | 23.9a ± 1.7 | 62.7f ± 0.40 |
| Diflubenzuron | 5.04 | 43.0b ± 1.2 | 177.6b ± 2.9 | 540.6b ± 6.2 | 22.8a ± 1.4 | 77.1cd ± 1.6 |
| | 19.4 | 40.4b ± 1.4 | 145.5d ± 5.3 | 439.0d ± 4.8 | 23.7a ± 0.8 | 70.3e ± 1.7 |

Within a column, means possessing the same letter do not differ significantly at $P = 0.05$. *E = emamectin

Table 7. Effect of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron when applied to the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* on the pupal weight gain, pupal duration and % adult emergence

| Insecticide | Conc. (mg L ⁻¹) | Pupal mean weight (mg/pupa) ± SE | Pupal duration (days) ± SE | %Adult emergence ± SE |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Control | - | 298.5a ± 3.4 | 9.7a ± 0.6 | 96.0a ± 0.2 |
| E*. benzoate | 0.004 | 280.2b ± 2.7 | 9.5a ± 0.4 | 89.4b ± 2.3 |
| | 0.007 | 261.1c ± 3.1 | 9.3a ± 0.4 | 77.5d ± 1.5 |
| Novaluron | 0.36 | 275.6b ± 2.7 | 9.4a ± 0.5 | 83.7c ± 2.4 |
| | 1.07 | 253.4c ± 3.2 | 9.7a ± 0.5 | 66.4e ± 1.8 |
| Diflubenzuron | 5.04 | 273.6b ± 2.4 | 9.4a ± 0.4 | 80.5cd ± 2.1 |
| | 19.4 | 256.5c ± 1.9 | 9.6a ± 0.5 | 68.3e ± 1.7 |

Within a column, means possessing the same letter do not differ significantly at $P = 0.05$. *E = emamectin

DISCUSSION

Insect management strategies must be directed towards the use of insecticides that are none or less toxic to all environmental components including the beneficial arthropods. Emamectin benzoate is less toxic to most beneficial arthropods, especially when exposure occurs beyond one day after application (Lasota and Dybas, 1991). Also, IGRs which act as chitin synthesis inhibitors or juvenile hormone analogs have been regarded as excellent integrated control insecticides because of their specificity to target pests and their general safety to vertebrates (Deakle and Bradly, 1982). In the present study, toxicity of the semi-synthetic insecticide emamectin benzoate, and two IGR compounds novaluron and diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* under the laboratory conditions were studied. Emamectin benzoate was approximately 264.3 and 5707.1 times more toxic than novaluron and diflubenzuron, respectively. Novaluron was approximately 21.6 times more toxic than diflubenzuron against the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* after 96 hrs of exposure. Argentine *et al.* (2002) reported high toxicity of emamectin benzoate against six species of Lepidoptera (LC₉₀ ranged from 0.0050 to 0.0218 µg / ml). Previous studies also showed that

emamectin benzoate was more toxic than some IGR compounds such as lufenuron and flufenoxuron against the 2nd, 3rd and 4th instar larvae of *S. littoralis* (Saad *et al.*, 2011).

The potentiating or synergistic effects that are likely to result from insecticides mixtures may allow a reduction in the insecticides field rates, delaying insecticide resistance and preserving natural enemies. In this study, mixtures of emamectin benzoate at LC₁₀ with novaluron at LC₁₀ and emamectin benzoate at LC₂₅ with novaluron at LC₂₅ resulted in potentiating effects. On the other hand, all mixtures of emamectin benzoate with diflubenzuron resulted in antagonistic effects. Saad *et al.*, (2011) recorded an antagonistic effect when emamectin benzoate was mixed with the IGR insecticides lufenuron or flufenoxuron. Based on our results, mixtures of emamectin benzoate with novaluron (at equal concentrations) can be used for cotton leafworm larvae management. On the other hand, mixtures of emamectin benzoate with diflubenzuron should not be used for control the cotton leafworm larvae. At present, there is a great need for independent work to identify reduced dosage levels that provide adequate control.

In field application of insecticides, some insects may be exposed to sublethal concentrations of the applied insecticide and many sublethal effects on insect pests can result from that exposure. Sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on some biological aspects of *S. littoralis* were carried out. Emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron at the two tested concentrations (LC₁₀ and LC₂₅) significantly decreased the average weight of treated larvae, reduced pupation percentage, suppressed the pupal mean weight and reduced adult emergence rate compared to control during the observation period. Abro *et al.* (1993) found that abamectin (emamectin benzoate is a semi-synthetic from abamectin) significantly reduced weight gain (food consumption) by 4th instars of *P. xylostella* at LC₅. In another study, when *Lymantria dispar* L. larvae treated with either 5.0 or 1.0 ppm abamectin had led to significantly reduced weight gain, indicating feeding cessation, also, delayed molting by at least 1 d. Avermectin at all sublethal concentrations appeared to act as depressants (Deecher *et al.*, 1990). In some dipteran larvae, sublethal doses of ivermectin have been reported to reduce pupation and emergence of adults (Strong, 1989).

Benzoylphenylureas (BPU), are considered safe insecticides for humans and other mammals, since chitin is absent in these species (Apperson *et al.*, 1978). Novaluron and diflubenzuron are types of IGRs that belong to benzoylurea. These insecticides disrupt chitin biosynthesis of the larval stages in susceptible insects (Ishaaya *et al.*, 2003). Applications of novaluron or diflubenzuron may result in mortality by disrupting the molting process through inhibiting the formation of chitin. Additionally, reduced egg hatch has been documented from eggs treated with benzyl ureas as well as sublethal effects on the treated insects (Alyokhin and Choban, 2010, Elliot and Anderson, 1982), which was confirmed in this study. Novaluron and diflubenzuron negatively affect most of the growth and development parameters that tested when the 2nd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* were treated by two sublethal concentrations. Abdel Rahman *et al.* (2007) reported that, when the 3rd instar larvae of *S. littoralis* were treated with lufenuron (Benzoylphenylurea) the affected larvae ceased feeding within 48 hrs. Also, Adel (2012) recorded an antifeedant effect for lufenuron against *S. littoralis* larvae. This may be the main reason for larval and pupal weight reduction.

Finally, our results verified the lethal and sublethal effects of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron on the larval stage of *S. littoralis*. The sublethal concentrations of these insecticides negatively affect some biological parameters of *S. littoralis*. These effects are very important from a practical point of

view, because the insect population can be negatively affected. Fortunately, the mode of action of emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron is different from pyrethroid, carbamate and organophosphate insecticides. So, emamectin benzoate, novaluron and diflubenzuron can be used for *S. littoralis* control and resistance management programs.

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