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M Shivaprasad
Professor of Agronomy and
Associate Director of Research
ZAHRS, Mudigere,
Chikkamagalur, Karnataka, India

BM Chittapur
Professor of Agronomy, UAS,
Raichur, Karnataka, India

Sadashiva Nadukeri
Assistant Professor (PSMAC),
COH, Mudigere, Karnataka, India

CS Ravi
Assistant Professor (PSMAC),
ZAHRS, Mudigere, Karnataka,
India

HR Bhomika
Assistant Professor (PSMAC),
COH, Mudigere, Karnataka, India

Correspondence
M Shivaprasad
Professor of Agronomy and
Associate Director of Research
ZAHRS, Mudigere,
Chikkamagalur, Karnataka, India

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Effect of nitrogen substitution and biorational sprays on the quality, oleoresin content and yield of the bydagi chilli

M Shivaprasad, BM Chittapur, Sadashiva Nadukeri, CS Ravi and HR Bhomika

Abstract

The field experiment was conducted during 2009 and 2010 to study the effect of nitrogen (N) substitution, biorationals and plant extract sprays on quality, oleoresin content and yield of bydagi chilli. Recommended fertilizer (RDF @ 100:50:50 kg NPK ha⁻¹) and 50:50:50 kg ha⁻¹ NPK through fertilizers and remaining 50 % N substitution equally through 2.5 t ha⁻¹ Vermicompost and 500 kg ha⁻¹ neem cake as main treatment and seven biorationals, silica, recommended plant protection chemical (RPP) and absolute control formed subplot treatments. Significantly higher dry pod yield was recorded with integrated N supply (795 kg ha⁻¹) compared to RDF. Among the biorational sprays, alternate sprays of Abamectin (3 sprays) and Perfect (2 sprays) produced higher yield by nearly 44 per cent over chilli grown with RPP sprays (two sprays of Dimethoate @ 1.7 ml l⁻¹ + 2 sprays of Dicofal @ 2.5 ml l⁻¹ + Carbaryl @ 4g l⁻¹). The quality parameters such as oleoresin content (%), oleoresin yield, Ascorbic acid content, Capsaicin content, Scoville heat unit and Percent discoloured fruits followed the same trend as pod yield.

Keywords: Neem cake, RDF, Nimbecidine, Panchagavya, Abamectin, RPP, Perfect. Oleoresin, Ascorbic acid, Capsaicin and Scoville heat unit

Introduction

India is the largest producer of chilli crop, grown on an area of 2, 68,000 ha with an annual production of 3, 21,000 tonnes with the productivity of 1198 kg ha⁻¹. Karnataka ranks second in area (89,556 ha) and production (1, 11,547 tonnes) of dry chilli after Andhra Pradesh (Anon, 2016) [1]. During the last two decades insecticidal control of chilli pests characterized by high pesticide usage has posed problem of residue in the fruits. Infact, both significant domestic consumption and sizable export of chilli necessitate production of quality chillies devoid of contamination of pesticides, industrial chemicals and aflatoxins. But the presence of residues in spices in general and in chilli in particular has been a major non-tariff barrier against export of chillies to the developed countries. The reported presences of residues of many insecticides including ethion, chlorpyrifos, cypermethrin, endosulfan and quinalphos have seriously affected the export of chillies. Chilli consignments are detained at the ports of the importing countries very often due to high pesticide usage in India. Besides, indiscriminate use of insecticides has led to insecticide resistance, pest resurgence, environmental pollution and upsetting of natural ecosystem. To overcome these problems, use of Biopesticides spray, plant based substances and certain indigenous practices offer safe alternatives in pest management. The integrated use of nutrients is better for the better quality of the vegetable crops such as bitter gourd. The use of Organic nutrient sources such as vermicompost help for better growth and development of the crop and impart resistance to the crop against pest and diseases. In view of this an investigation was carried out to evaluate effect of nitrogen substitution and biorational sprays on the quality, oleoresin content and yield of the bydagi chilli.

Materials and methods

A field experiment was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Devihosur, Haveri, UAHS, Bagalkot during growing seasons of 2009 and 2010 at fixed site using spilt plot design with three replications with RDF (100:50:50 kg NPK ha⁻¹, entire N through fertilizer) and 50:50:50 kg ha⁻¹ NPK; 50% of 100 kg N through Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) and remaining 50% N through 2.5 t ha⁻¹ vermicompost and 500 kg ha⁻¹ neem cake as main plots, and biorational sprays namely alternate sprays of Nimbecidine (5 ml l⁻¹) and Garlic-Chilli Kerosene extract (GCK) (1%), leaf extract (10%), Panchagavya (3%), leaf extract (10%) + Panchagavya (3%) mixture, Silica (2 ml l⁻¹), Action (1ml l⁻¹), alternate sprays of Abamectin (0.5 ml l⁻¹) and Perfect (1 ml l⁻¹), only Silica dusting and soil application (3,5,7,9 and 11 WAT) and RPP (two sprays of Dimethoate (1.7 ml l⁻¹) at 2 and 5 WAT, Dicofal (2.5 ml l⁻¹) + Carbaryl (4g l⁻¹) at 7 and 11 WAT and control(water spray) as sub plot treatment having no sprays. Microbial cultures of *Pseudomonas fluorescence*, *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and PSB (P solubilizing bacteria) were mixed with 10 litres of water and seedlings were dipped in these solutions for one hour before transplanting. The Panchagavya was prepared by the following procedure, cow dung (7 kg) + cow ghee (1 kg) → incubated 2 days → added 3 litres of cow urine + 10 litres water → stirred 2 times per day for 1 week → added sugarcane juice (3 litres) → added cow urine (2 litres) → added cow curd (2 litres) → added coconut water (3 litres) → added yeast (100 g) + 12 ripped banana → incubated for 2 weeks. After these incubation periods panchagavya was used for spray. The leaves of nigundo (*Vitex nigundo* @ 1 kg), neem (*Azadirachta indica* @ 1 kg), NSKE (Neem seed kernel extract @ 1kg), *Adothoda vesica* @ 1kg, pongamia (*Pongamia pinnata* @ 1kg) and argemone (*Argemone mexicana* @ 1kg) were chopped → added 100 ml cow urine + 10 litres of water → incubated for 4 weeks, filtered with muslin cloth and solution was used for spray. Garlic bulbs (10 g) and green chilli pods (10 g) were thoroughly ground separately in a pestle and mortar; grind materials were soaked overnight in 10 ml kerosene each separately. Next day, the extracts of garlic and chilli were mixed and filtered through muslin cloth. Later, the volume was made up to 1 litre to obtain 1 per cent garlic-chilli-kerosene (GCK) extract. The soil of the experimental site was medium deep black soil, neutral (7.2 pH) with 272.0, 36.6 and 336.0 kg ha⁻¹, respectively available nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and 0.56 per cent organic carbon. In general, the experiment site was medium in fertility status.

For the estimation of quality parameters samples of red ripe fruits from all pickings were collected treatment-wise for determining quality traits. They were sun dried for 10-15 days till they were brittle and then distilled carefully. The sun dried fruits were used for the analysis of capsaicin and oleoresin. For the estimation of the ascorbic acid content freshly harvested green chilli was used for ascorbic acid estimation. It was determined volumetrically by reducing 2, 6-dichlorophenol-indophenol dye to get a pink end point (Sadasivam and Manikam, 1992) [10]. The Capsaicin content and Scoville Heat Unit (SHU) was estimated by the procedure proposed by Palacio (1977) [7]. In this estimation procedure, 2 grams of ground-dried chilli was passed through No.40 sieve (0.42 mm) and was placed in the 100 ml volumetric flask. The material was diluted with ethyl acetate up to 100 ml and allowed it to stand for 24 hours to extract. One ml of the extract was taken and diluted with 5 ml of ethyl acetate just before reading, and then 0.5 ml of vanadium

oxytrichloride (VoCl₃) solution (0.5% VoCl₃ in ethyl acetate) was added and the volumetric flask (100 ml) was shaken thoroughly and reading was taken at 720 nm. Then reading was subtracted from the value obtained with 0.5 ml VoCl₃ added to 5 ml ethyl acetate (blank) and the reading was compared with the standard curve prepared for capsaicin. The amount of capsaicin in the samples was expressed in percentage. The capsaicin content in fruits is expressed in terms of Scoville heat units (Scoville, 1912) [11]. Suzuki *et al.* (1957) [13] have established the relationship that one per cent of pure capsaicin has a Scoville heat value of 150000 units

$$\% \text{ capsaicin} = \frac{\text{mg capsaicin}}{1000 \times 1000} \times \frac{100}{1} \times \frac{100}{2}$$

The Oleoresin content was estimated by taking ten grams of chilli powder sample in a chromatographic column, plugged with stop cock. Fifty ml of acetone was added and allowed over night. The slurry was collected in a pre-weighed beaker and solvent was evaporated over a water bath. The collected slurry was cooled and weighed. Difference in weight over sample weight was expressed as per cent oleoresin (AOAC, 1997) or (ASTA method 2.3). Oleoresin yield per ha was worked out by using the formula.

Oleoresin yield (kg ha⁻¹) =

$$\text{Oleoresin per cent in fruits} = \frac{\text{Fruit yield} - \text{discoloured fruit weight (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)}}{\text{weight (kg ha}^{-1}\text{)}} \times 100$$

Results and discussion

Performance of chilli Supplementing 50 per cent of RDN equally through 2.5 t ha⁻¹ vermicompost + 500 kg ha⁻¹ neem cake (25 kg ha⁻¹ N each) recorded the highest yield of chilli (795 kg ha⁻¹) with yield improvement to the extent of 22 per cent over complete inorganic source of N application. Similar results of increased yield due to application of organics in combination with inorganic (RDF) in 1:1 ratio compared to the inorganic fertilizer alone were reported by Shashidhara and with the use of neem cake by Ravikumar and Gundannavar. Similarly, Sharu and Meerabai reported significant improvement in the yield components with the combination of organic and inorganic sources of nutrients (N) to chilli crop. Among plant protection schedules, alternate spray of Abamectin and Perfect at 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 WAT recorded highest dry pod chilli yield (1050 kg ha⁻¹). Interestingly, improvement in the yield was to the extent of 54 per cent over recommended chemical spray (Dimethoate + Dicofal + Carbaryl spray) and more than double (119%) over control treatment having no sprays (Table 1). The beneficial effect of Abamectin in increasing yield was also reported by Tatagar. Nimbecidine alternated with GCK, leaf extract or panchagavya + leaf extract and panchagavya alone were next in the order and were on par with RPP Gundannavar opined that neem products are best alternatives to RPP with on par/higher chilli yield. Similarly, Kulkarni and Shekarappa reported higher yield of chilli through NSKE. Thus, the results clearly evident that integrated supply of nitrogen nutrient through organic and inorganic sources together with biorational spray (e.g. Abamectin-Perfect, Nimbecidine- Leaf extract + Panchagavya) has got remarkable influence on yield and quality of Bydagi chilli compared to only inorganic

sources of N nutrition. Chilli crop supplied with integrated sources of nitrogen through organic and inorganic sources coupled with Abamectin and Perfect sprays alternatively recorded the highest fruit yield (1131 kg ha⁻¹) and the increment was appreciable which was to the extent of 63 and 164 per cent over RPP and no spray treatment receiving only inorganic source of nitrogen, respectively. Alternate spray of Abamectin and Perfect coupled with inorganic source N application was next in the order.

Chilli quality was greatly influenced by application of integrated sources of N through organics and inorganic. Among the quality parameters the ascorbic acid content of the chilli fruit was the highest with the combined application of N through organic. Similar to the above findings, Finch and Popokaya also observed the inverse relationship between ascorbic acid content and inorganic sources of N. Among the biorational and leaf extract sprays the highest ascorbic acid content was recorded with Nimbecidine alternated with leaf extract + Panchagavya spray (216.4 mg 100 g⁻¹). This was closely followed by alternate spray of Abamectin and perfect, both were at par. The nimbecidine alternated with leaf extract + Panchagavya enhanced the ascorbic acid content to extent of 60 and 73 per cent compared to RPP and control treatment having no sprays respectively. While, the extent of improvement with alternate spray of Abamectin and Perfect was 32 and 62 per cent over RPP and no spray treatment, respectively. Similar trend was observed with capsaicin content and Scoville heat units (SHU). The integrated nitrogen management through equal quantity of N through

organic and inorganic sources improved the capsaicin content and SHU to the extent of 25 and 23 per cent, respectively compared to only inorganic sources of N application. The oleoresin per cent and oleoresin yield (15.56% and 113.9 kg ha⁻¹, respectively) increased significantly with 50 per cent of N substitution through organics in the form of vermicompost and neem cake compared to inorganic source of N nutrition. The improvement in the oleoresin content and yield with the integrated N supply was to the extent of 8 and 32 per cent compared to only inorganic sources of N application. Nimbecidine alternated with leaf extract + Panchagavya spray recorded significantly higher capsaicin and Scoville heat units and increase was to the extent of 120 and 214 per cent and 115 and 204 per cent compared to RPP and no spray (control) treatments, respectively (Table 2). The oleoresin per cent was significantly higher (17.48%) with alternate spray of Nimbecidine and leaf extract + Panchagavya spray compared to rest of the sprays except alternate spray of Abamectin and Perfect (16.51%). The alternate spray of Abamectin and Perfect recorded the highest oleoresin yield (160 kg ha⁻¹) and the increment in the oleoresin yield was to the extent of 67 and 203 per cent over RPP and no spray treatment (control), respectively (Table 3). In the present study, it was clearly evident that integrated supply of nitrogen nutrient through organic and inorganic sources together with biorational spray (e.g: Abamectin-Perfect, Nimbecidine- Leaf extract + Panchagavya) has got remarkable influence on yield and quality of Bydagi chilli.

Table 1: Yield of the *Bydagi* chilli as influenced by nitrogen substitution through organics and use of biorational and plant extract sprays (Pooled data of 2009 and 2010).

Treatments	Dry pod yield (kg/ha)
T ₁ :100:50:50 kg NPK ha ⁻¹ (RDF)*	654 ^b
T ₂ :50:50:50 kg ha ⁻¹ NPK + 50% N by 2.5 t ha ⁻¹ V.C + 500 kg ha ⁻¹ neem cake**	795 ^a
S.E.m.±	8.9
C.D at 5%	79.5
S ₁ : Nimbecidine – GCK	750 ^b
S ₂ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract	768 ^b
S ₃ : Nimbecidine - Panchagavya	741 ^b
S ₄ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract +Panchagavya mixture spray	782 ^b
S ₅ : Nimbecidine - Silica spray	636 ^c
S ₆ : Nimbecidine - Action 100 spray	614 ^c
S ₇ : Abamectin (1.9 EC) - Perfect	1050 ^a
S ₈ : Silica	665 ^c
S ₉ : RPP	758 ^b
S ₁₀ : Control	479 ^d
S.E.m.±	19.9
C.D at 5%	56.2
T ₁ S ₁	677 ^{de}
T ₁ S ₂	695 ^d
T ₁ S ₃	668 ^{de}
T ₁ S ₄	712 ^d
T ₁ S ₅	558 ^f
T ₁ S ₆	538 ^f
T ₁ S ₇	969 ^b
T ₁ S ₈	604 ^{ef}
T ₁ S ₉	693 ^d
T ₁ S ₁₀	428 ^g
T ₂ S ₁	823 ^c
T ₂ S ₂	841 ^c
T ₂ S ₃	814 ^c
T ₂ S ₄	853 ^c
T ₂ S ₅	714 ^d
T ₂ S ₆	691 ^d
T ₂ S ₇	1131 ^a
T ₂ S ₈	724 ^d

T ₂ S ₉	822 ^c
T ₂ S ₁₀	532 ^f
S.Em.±	28.2
C.D at 5%	79.5

* Inorganic N, ** Organic + inorganic N (50:50), *** Chemical sprayed alternatively Silica (2 ml l⁻¹), nimbecidine (5 ml l⁻¹), GCK (Garlic chilli kerosene extract 1%), leaf extract (*Vitex nigundo*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Adothis vesica*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Argimone mexicana* and NSKE), Abamectin (0.5 ml l⁻¹), perfect (1 ml l⁻¹), panchagavya (3%), In a column means followed by the same alphabet do not differ significantly by DMRT (0.05)

Table 2: Ascorbic acid content (mg 100 g⁻¹), capsaicin content (%) and Scoville heat units as influenced by nitrogen substitution through organics and use of biorational and plant extract sprays (Pooled data of 2009 and 2010).

Treatments	Ascorbic acid content (mg 100 g ⁻¹)	Capsaicin content (%)	Scoville heat units
Sources of Nitrogen			
T ₁ :100:50:50 kg NPK ha ⁻¹ (RDF)*	161.5 ^b	0.12 ^b	18025 ^b
T ₂ :50:50:50 kg ha ⁻¹ NPK + 50% N by 2.5 t ha ⁻¹ V.C + 500 kg ha ⁻¹ neem cake**	178.9 ^a	0.15 ^a	22250 ^a
S.Em.±	1.9	0.004	449.3
C.D at 5%	5.3	0.012	1267
Biopesticides sprays***			
S ₁ : Nimbecidine – GCK	177.3 ^c	0.15 ^{bc}	22500 ^{bc}
S ₂ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract	190.8 ^b	0.14 ^{cd}	20625 ^{cd}
S ₃ : Nimbecidine - Panchagavya	195.7 ^b	0.17 ^b	24875 ^b
S ₄ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract +Panchagavya mixture spray	216.4 ^a	0.22 ^a	32250 ^a
S ₅ : Nimbecidine - Silica spray	144.7 ^{ef}	0.12 ^{de}	18125 ^{de}
S ₆ : Nimbecidine - Action 100 spray	160.8 ^d	0.11 ^e	16500 ^{ef}
S ₇ : Abamectin (1.9 EC) - Perfect	202.4 ^b	0.17 ^b	24750 ^b
S ₈ : Silica	135.7 ^{fg}	0.11 ^e	16125 ^{ef}
S ₉ : RPP	153.6 ^{de}	0.10 ^e	15000 ^f
S ₁₀ : Control	125.1 ^g	0.07 ^f	10625 ^g
S.Em.±	4.2	0.01	1005
C.D at 5%	11.9	0.03	2832
Interaction			
T ₁ S ₁	177.6 ^{def}	0.14 ^{cde}	20250 ^{def}
T ₁ S ₂	177.9 ^{def}	0.12 ^{d-g}	17250 ^{fgh}
T ₁ S ₃	183.2 ^{cde}	0.16 ^{cd}	23250 ^{cde}
T ₁ S ₄	198.5 ^{bc}	0.20 ^{ab}	30000 ^b
T ₁ S ₅	138.9 ^{ijk}	0.10 ^{e-h}	15250 ^{ghi}
T ₁ S ₆	153.0 ^{ghi}	0.09 ^{fgh}	13250 ^{hij}
T ₁ S ₇	193.3 ^{bcd}	0.16 ^{cd}	23250 ^{cde}
T ₁ S ₈	130.7 ^{kl}	0.10 ^{e-h}	14250 ^{g-j}
T ₁ S ₉	145.9 ^{h-k}	0.09 ^{fgh}	13500 ^{g-j}
T ₁ S ₁₀	116.3 ^l	0.07 ^h	10000 ^j
T ₂ S ₁	177.1 ^{def}	0.16 ^{cd}	24750 ^{cd}
T ₂ S ₂	203.6 ^b	0.16 ^{cd}	24000 ^{cde}
T ₂ S ₃	208.2 ^b	0.18 ^{bc}	26500 ^{bc}
T ₂ S ₄	234.2 ^a	0.23 ^a	34500 ^a
T ₂ S ₅	150.4 ^{g-j}	0.14 ^{cde}	21000 ^{def}
T ₂ S ₆	168.3 ^{efg}	0.13 ^{def}	19750 ^{ef}
T ₂ S ₇	211.6 ^b	0.18 ^{bc}	26250 ^{bc}
T ₂ S ₈	140.7 ^{ijk}	0.12 ^{d-g}	18000 ^{fg}
T ₂ S ₉	161.4 ^{fgh}	0.11 ^{e-h}	16500 ^{fgh}
T ₂ S ₁₀	133.9 ^{jkl}	0.08 ^{gh}	11250 ^{ij}
S.Em.±	6.0	0.01	1421
C.D at 5%	16.9	0.04	4006

* Inorganic N, ** Organic + inorganic N (50:50), *** Chemical sprayed alternatively Silica (2 ml l⁻¹), nimbecidine (5 ml l⁻¹), GCK (Garlic chilli kerosene extract 1%), leaf extract (*Vitex nigundo*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Adothis vesica*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Argimone mexicana* and NSKE), Abamectin (0.5 ml l⁻¹), perfect (1 ml l⁻¹) panchagavya (3%), In a column means followed by the same alphabet do not differ significantly by DMRT (0.05).

Table 3: Oleoresin content (%) and Oleoresin (kg ha⁻¹) as influenced by nitrogen substitution through organics and use of biorational and plant extract sprays (Pooled data of 2009 and 2010).

Treatments	Oleoresin content (%)	Oleoresin (kg ha ⁻¹)
Sources of nitrogen		
T ₁ : 100:50:50 kg NPK ha ⁻¹ (RDF)*	14.47 ^b	86.2 ^b
T ₂ : 50:50:50 kg ha ⁻¹ NPK + 50% N by 2.5 t ha ⁻¹ V.C + 500 kg ha ⁻¹ neem cake**	15.56 ^a	113.9 ^a
S.E.m.±	0.17	1.70
C.D at 5%	0.49	4.78
Biopesticides sprays		
S ₁ : Nimbecidine – GCK	15.82 ^{bc}	107.8 ^c
S ₂ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract	15.05 ^{cd}	103.9 ^{cd}
S ₃ : Nimbecidine - Panchagavya	14.76 ^{cd}	99.6 ^{cde}
S ₄ : Nimbecidine – Leaf extract +Panchagavya mixture spray	17.48 ^a	125.6 ^b
S ₅ : Nimbecidine - Silica spray	15.00 ^{cd}	90.6 ^{efg}
S ₆ : Nimbecidine - Action 100 spray	14.44 ^d	79.7 ^g
S ₇ : Abamectin (1.9 EC) - Perfect	16.51 ^{ab}	159.8 ^a
S ₈ : Silica	14.31 ^d	85.2 ^{fg}
S ₉ : RPP	14.16 ^d	95.5 ^{def}
S ₁₀ : Control	12.47 ^e	52.8 ^h
S.E.m.±	0.39	3.79
C.D at 5%	1.10	10.69
Interaction		
T ₁ S ₁	15.41 ^{b-f}	94.2 ^{efg}
T ₁ S ₂	14.59 ^{c-h}	90.7 ^{fgh}
T ₁ S ₃	13.79 ^{fgh}	83.1 ^{ghi}
T ₁ S ₄	17.09 ^{ab}	111.5 ^{cd}
T ₁ S ₅	14.4 ^{c-h}	72.4 ^{ij}
T ₁ S ₆	13.41 ^{ghi}	63.7 ^j
T ₁ S ₇	16.06 ^{bcd}	142.9 ^b
T ₁ S ₈	14.01 ^{c-h}	74.8 ^{hij}
T ₁ S ₉	13.96 ^{c-h}	84.9 ^{ghi}
T ₁ S ₁₀	11.98 ⁱ	43.8 ^k
T ₂ S ₁	16.23 ^{abc}	121.3 ^c
T ₂ S ₂	15.51 ^{b-f}	117.1 ^c
T ₂ S ₃	15.74 ^{b-e}	116.2 ^c
T ₂ S ₄	17.87 ^a	139.8 ^b
T ₂ S ₅	15.61 ^{b-f}	108.8 ^{cde}
T ₂ S ₆	15.47 ^{b-f}	95.8 ^{d-g}
T ₂ S ₇	16.97 ^{ab}	176.6 ^a
T ₂ S ₈	14.85 ^{c-g}	95.5 ^{d-g}
T ₂ S ₉	14.37 ^{d-h}	106.1 ^{c-f}
T ₂ S ₁₀	12.97 ^{hi}	61.9 ^j
S.E.m.±	0.55	5.36
C.D at 5%	1.55	15.11

* Inorganic N, ** Organic + inorganic N (50:50), *** Chemical sprayed alternatively Silica (2 ml l⁻¹), nimbecidine (5 ml l⁻¹), GCK (Garlic chilli kerosene extract 1%), leaf extract (*Vitex nigundo*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Adoithoda vesica*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Argimone mexicana* and NSKE), Abamectin (0.5 ml l⁻¹), perfect (1 ml l⁻¹) panchagavya (3%), In a column means followed by the same alphabet do not differ significantly by DMRT (0.05).

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