



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTOMOPATHOGENIC HYPHOMYCETES
TOWARDS CONTROLLING THE BROAD MITE,
Polyphagotarsonemus latus (Banks)
AND THE RED SPIDER MITE,
Tetranychus urticae Koch Complex**

IHSAN NUGROHO

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By

IHSAN NUGROHO

Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

December 2003



DEDICATION

*To my wife Murtafi'ah and my twin children Ahmad Afif Nugroho,
Annisa Afifah Nugroho and Ahmad Aziz Nugroho
For their sacrifices, support, and strength.*



Abstract of the thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra
Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of Master of Science.

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December 2003

Chairman : Professor Yusof Bin Ibrahim, Ph.D.

Faculty : Agriculture

The red spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch Complex and the broad mite, *Polyphagotarsonemus latus* (Banks) are serious pests on many agricultural and ornamental crops. They are distributed worldwide and polyphagous on vegetables especially those under shelter and fruit crops. In Malaysia strawberries are usually damaged by the red spider mite while the broad mite is a serious pest on chilli. Chemical insecticides have been the mainstay for controlling these mites.

In recent year, the use of microbial control agent such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* has become increasingly attractive as a biocontrol agent and has become important as one of the biological control



components in IPM programmes. In this respect, the potential of entomopathogenic fungi including *Beauveria bassiana* (Bals.) Vuill., *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metch) Sorokin and *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* (Wise) Brown Smith were investigated as microbial control agents against the red spider mite *T. urticae* and the broad mite *P. latus* in the laboratory. Field efficacies of selected isolates in wettable powder formulations were also assessed against the broad mite on chilli.

Pathogenicity tests indicated that the above mentioned three isolates were able to cause significant mortalities on the larvae, nymph and adult red spider mite *T. urticae* and broad mite *P. latus*. *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* (PfPp) was the most pathogenic against the red spider mite followed by *M. anisopliae* (MaPs) and *B. bassiana* (BbGc), while *B. bassiana* (BbGc) was the most infective against broad mite followed by *P. fumosoroseus* (PfPp) and *M. anisopliae* (MaPs).

Wettable powder formulations of entomopathogenic fungi as mycoinsecticides were very effective in suppressing broad mite population on chilli plants in the field. Formulations of *B. bassiana* (BbGc) and *P. fumosoroseus* (PfPp) significantly reduced the mite population and provided high percentage of shoot recovery by the

fourth spray schedule compared to the control. Infested shoots treated with wettable powder formulation of *B. bassiana* (BbGc) resulted in 93.33% recovery which was significantly compared to Amitraz (96.33%). However, Amitraz was able to suppress the mite population faster than *B. bassiana* (BbGc); complete annihilation of the mite population was achieved after the second spraying with Amitraz. Nevertheless, the wettable powder formulation of *B. bassiana* (BbGc) was as effective as the acaricide Amitraz by the last observation. A succession of four sprays at five day interval of mycoinsecticide was needed to suppress the broad mite population in the chilli field.

In the current study, it was believed that horizontal transmission did occur via infected mite cadaver which produced and released millions of infectious conidia although temperature and other environmental factors could affect dispersal. Fungal pathogen would established in a continuous cropping system and become an additional microbial agent in natural enemy complex, and as an important component in an IPM programme.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**KEBERKESANAN ENTOMOPATOGEN HYPHOMYCETE KE
ATAS HAMAMA LEBAR, *Polyphagotarsonemus latus* Banks
DAN HAMAMA LELABAH MERAH
Tetranychus Urticae, Koch Complex**

Oleh

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Hamama lelabah merah *Tetranychus urticae* Koch Complex dan hamama lebar *Polyphagotarsonemus latus* Banks, merupakan perosak utama tanaman-tanaman pertanian dan hortikultur. Taburan kedua-duanya meluas seluruh dunia dan bersifat polyfagus, terutamanya merosakkan tanaman sayuran bawah naungan dan buah-buahan. Di Malaysia, hamama lelabah merah biasanya menyerang tanaman strawberi sedangkan hamama lebar amat serius pada pokok cili. Sehingga kini racun serangga adalah yang diutamakan dalam pengawalan hamama ini.

Dalam masa-masa terdekat ini, penggunaan mikrob sebagai agent kawalan biologi sepertimana *Bacillus thuringiensis* semakin

meningkat dan menjadi penting sebagai salah satu komponen kawalan biologi dalam program kawalan perosak bersepadu. Berkaitan hal ini, potensi kulat entomopathogen termasuk *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium anisopliae* dan *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* sebagai agen kawalan mikroba telah diuji ke atas hamama lelabah merah dan hamama lebar di makmal. Penilaian efikasi di lapangan untuk beberapa pencilan terpilih dalam formulasi serbuk basah dilakukan ke atas lelabah lebar pada pokok cili.

Ujian kepatogenan menunjukkan ketiga-tiga pencilan tersebut di atas berupaya menyebabkan kematian yang signifikan ke atas larva, nimfa dan dewasa hamama lelabah merah serta hamama lebar dewasa. *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* (PfPp) ialah yang paling patogenik ke atas hamama lelabah merah diikuti oleh *M. anisopliae* (MaPs) dan *B. bassiana* (BbGc), manakala *B. bassiana* (BbGc) ialah yang paling menjangkiti hamama lebar diikuti oleh *P. fumosoroseus* (PfPp) dan *M. anisopliae* (MaPs).

Formulasi serbuk basah kulat entomopathogen sebagai mikoinsektisid didapati sungguh berkesan dalam menindas populasi lelabah lebar pada pokok cili di lapangan. Formulasi mengandungi *B. bassiana* (BbGc) dan *P. fumosoroseus* (PfPp)

dapat mengurangkan populasi hamama dengan bermakna dan memberi peratus pemulihan pucuk cili yang tinggi selepas semburan ke empat berbanding kawalan. Pucuk yang diserang telah pulih sebanyak 93.33% setelah dirawat dengan formulasi serbuk basah *B. bassiana* (BbGc) setanding dengan Amitraz (96.33%). Bagaimanapun, Amitraz berupaya menindas populasi hamama lebih cepat daripada *B. bassiana* (BbGc); pemusnahan populasi hamama dicapai selepas dua kali semburan. Empat kali semburan berturut-turut 5 hari berselang, diperlukan untuk menindas populasi hamama lebar pada pokok cili di ladang.

Dalam kajian ini dipercayai transmisi mendatar telah berlaku melalui hamama yang telah dijangkiti yang mana menghasilkan banyak konidia sungguhpun suhu dan lain-lain faktor persekitaran boleh menjejaskan sebaran. Kulat entomopathogen akan bertapak dalam sistem tanaman yang berterusan sebagai tambahan kepada salah satu agent mikrob di dalam kompleks musuh semulajadi, dan sebagai komponen penting dalam Program Pengawalan Perosak Bersepadu.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVAL	xi
DECLARATION	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
LIST OF FIGURES	xviii
LIST OF PLATES	xix
LIST OF APPENDICES	xxii

CHAPTER

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1. The red spider mite <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch Complex	
2.1.1. Introduction	6
2.1.2. Biology and ecology of <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex	7
2.1.3. Damage and importance	10
2.1.4. Control	12
2.1.4.1. Chemical control	13
2.1.4.2. Biological control	14
2.2. The broad mite <i>Polyphagotarsonemus latus</i> (Banks)	
2.2.1. Introduction	15
2.2.2. Biology and ecology of <i>P. latus</i>	15
2.2.3. Damage and importance	19



TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

2.2.4. Control	21
2.2.4.1. Chemical control	21
2.2.4.2. Biological control	22
2.3. The Entomopathogenic Fungi	
2.3.1. History	22
2.3.2. Potential as biocontrol agents against mites	24
2.3.3. <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> (Bals) Vuill	26
2.3.4. <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> (Metc) Sorokin	28
2.3.5. <i>Paecilomyces fumosoroseus</i> (Wise) Brown & Smith	31
2.3.6. Mode of action	33
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1. Experimental set-up	37
3.2. Mite culture	37
3.3. Fungal culture	38
3.4. Selection of isolates	39
3.5. Test for pathogenicity against the red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> and the broad mite <i>P. latus</i>	40
3.6. Test for wettable powder formulation	41
3.7. Screen house experiment	43
3.8. Field experiment	46
3.8.1. Test against the broad mite	46



TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1. Selection of isolates	49
4.2. Pathogenicity test for the red spider mite	53
4.3. Pathogenicity test for the broad mite	54
4.4. Test for wettable powder formulation	59
4.5. Screen house experiment	73
4.6. Field experiment, test against broad mite	73
5. GENERAL DISCUSSION	82
6. CONCLUSION	86
REFERENCES	87
APPENDICES	100
BIODATA OF AUTHOR	118



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1.	Origin of Entomopathogenic fungus isolates.	49
2.	Probit analyses of three best entomopathogenic fungal isolates before and after passing through red spider mite.	52
3.	Mean percentage of the infected red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex upon treatment with <i>B. bassiana</i> , <i>M. anisopliae</i> and <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> recorded seven days after inoculation.	56
4.	Results of probit analyses for isolates of <i>B. bassiana</i> , <i>M. anisopliae</i> and <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> against young adult female of red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex.	61
5.	Median lethal time for varying dosages of <i>B. bassiana</i> (BbGc), <i>M. anisopliae</i> (MaPs) and <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> (PfPp) on the young adult female red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch	63
6.	Results of probit analyses for isolates of <i>B. bassiana</i> , <i>M. anisopliae</i> and <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> against adult broad mites <i>P. latus</i> (Bank.)	67
7.	Median lethal time for varying dosages of <i>B. bassiana</i> (BbGc), <i>M. anisopliae</i> (MaPs) and <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> (PfPp) on the broad mite <i>P. latus</i> Banks.	68
8.	Mean percentage of recovery new chilli shoot seven days after the fourth spray application.	74



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.	Percent mortality of young adult red spider mite treated with all isolate at concentration 1×10^6 conidial mL^{-1} .	51
2.	Mean percent mortality of young adult female red spider mite upon exposure (1×10^8 conidial mL^{-1}) to entomopathogenic fungi.	54
3.	Effect of varying conidia:carrier mixtures on mite mortality	72
4.	Broad mite population sampled at each period before spraying.	77
5.	Relationship between mite population and percentage of new chilli shoot recovery.	78
6.	Recorded daily rainfall under field experiment between July (—■—), and August (---◆---) of 2002.	78
7.	Total eggs population each period before spraying	80



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1.	The red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex : adult female (a);male (b); mating stage (c); egg (d); nymphs/chrysalis(e).	9
2.	Webbing on a heavy infestation by <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex.	11
3.	The broad mite <i>P. latus</i> (Banks), adult female(a), nymph (b), eggs (c), mating stage (d).	17
4.	<i>Capsicum annum</i> health (a), symptom on seedling (leaf curl downward) (b).	19
5.	Conidia globose and “zig-zag” of <i>B. bassiana</i> (a), a culture of <i>B. bassiana</i> on PDA (whitish colour) (b).	28
6.	Conidia (mass conidia) of <i>M. anisopliae</i>	29
7.	Culture of <i>M. anisopliae</i> on PDA (greenish colour).	30
8.	Culture of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> on PDA (pink colour).	32
9.	Conidia (phialides) of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> .	33
10.	Culture of red spider mites on lima bean <i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> .	37
11.	Culture of broad mites <i>P. lunatus</i> on Chilli seedling	38
12.	Good isolate , full plate growth and sporulation over the surface of plate (a, b), Poor isolate, hyphae only (c).	39
13.	Leaf discs for pathogenicity test	40
14.	A modified “test tube leaflet-disc” for wettable powder test.	42



LIST OF PLATES (Continued)

Plate		Page
15.	Screenhouse experiment set-up.	44
16.	The experimental chilli plot (<i>Var. Langkap</i>) in the open area.	46
17.	Infection of <i>B. bassiana</i> on the red spider mite.	54
18.	Infection of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> on the red spider mite.	55
19.	Infection of <i>M. anisopliae</i> on the red spider mite.	56
20.	Egg of the red spider mite became reddish at the early stage of infection by <i>M. anisopliae</i> .	58
21.	Infection of <i>M. anisopliae</i> inside and outside egg of the red spider mite.	58
22.	Crysalis stage (a) and moulting (b) provided lesser opportunity for fungal invasion.	60
23.	Infection of <i>B. bassiana</i> on anal region of <i>P. latus</i>	65
24.	The broad mite <i>P. latus</i> infected by <i>B. bassiana</i> (a) <i>M. anisopliae</i> (b) <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> (c).	65
25.	Infection of <i>M. anisopliae</i> over the surface of <i>P. latus</i>	66
26.	Infection of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> over the surface of <i>P. latus</i> .	66
27.	The pure dried conidia produced by rice fermentation. <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> (a), <i>M. anisopliae</i> (b) and <i>B. bassiana</i> (c).	70



LIST OF PLATES (Continued)

Plate		Page
28.	Pure conidia (A), Carrier, diluent clay (B) WP formulation of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> (1), <i>M. anisopliae</i> (2) and <i>B. bassiana</i> (3).	71
29.	Recovered chilli new shoot on seedling with leaf curl downward symptomatic of broad mite infestation (a), new shoot recovery (b).	75
30.	New shoots mite infestation (control).	76



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
1. Mean percentage mortality of selected entomopathogenic fungal isolate against the red spider mites <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex.	100
2. Effect of <i>B. bassiana</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>T. urticae</i> at varying dosages.	101
3. Effect of <i>M. anisopliae</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>T. urticae</i> at varying dosages.	102
4. Effect of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>T. urticae</i> at varying dosages.	103
5. Effect of <i>B. bassiana</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>P. latus</i> at varying dosages.	104
6. Effect of <i>M. anisopliae</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>P. latus</i> at varying dosages.	105
7. Effect of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> on mean cumulative mortality (%) on <i>P. latus</i> at varying dosages.	106
8. Mean percentage infection of the red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex after treatment with varying dosages of <i>B. bassiana</i> BbGc.	107
9. Mean percentage infection of the red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex after treatment with varying dosages of <i>M. anisopliae</i> MaPs.	108
10. Mean percentage infection of the red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> Koch Complex after treatment with varying dosages of <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> PfPp.	109



LIST OF APPENDICES (Continued)

Appendix	Page
11. Mean percentage infection of the broad mite <i>P. latus</i> Bank after treatment with varying dosages of Entomopathogenic fungi.	110
12. Mean percentage infection of the broad mite <i>P. latus</i> Bank and the red spider mite <i>T. urticae</i> after treatment ^a of Entomopathogenic fungi. ^b	111
13. Cumulative mortality of red spider mite caused by <i>M. anisopliae</i> using a wettable powder formulation.	112
14. Cumulative mortality of red spider mite caused by <i>B. bassiana</i> using a wettable powder formulation.	113
15. Cumulative mortality of red spider mite caused by <i>P. fumosoroseus</i> using a wettable powder formulation.	114
16. Effect of carrier in different mixtures to mite mortality.	115
17. Effect of three genera of entomopathogenic fungi on the predatory mite <i>P. mexicanus</i> Garman at a dose 1×10^8 conidial mL ⁻¹ .	115
18. Total count of broad mite <i>P. latus</i> in the field after each spraying.	116
19. Daily relative humidity (■), temperature max (◆), min (▲) July 2001 in UPM Research Park, Serdang, Selangor Malaysia.	117
20. Daily relative humidity (■), temperature max (◆), min (▲) August 2001 in UPM Research Park, Serdang, Selangor Malaysia.	117