# Effects of Diatomaceous Earth on the Mortality and Progeny Production of *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Coleoptera: Bostrychidae)

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**ABSTRACT**

Laboratory experiments were conducted to assess the insecticidal effect of the diatomaceous earth (DE) formulation Insecto® against adult stage of *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.) at two levels of relative humidity i.e. 40 and 55%, and three exposure periods of 7, 14, and 21 days. Test insects were placed in vials containing 40 g of soft winter wheat mixed with 0.25, 0.50, 1.00, 1.50 and 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ DE. After respective exposure periods, mortality in all dose rates except 0.25 and 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$ was found to be significantly different from mortality in control. After each exposure interval, dead and live insects were counted and removed, and then the vial containing wheat was returned to corresponding humidity chamber for 8 weeks until $F_1$ adults emerged. For $F_1$ production, applications at all dose rates were significantly different from control group. Mortality regardless of dosage for 7, 14 and 21 days exposure intervals were between 27.67–33.40 %. Despite the fact that mortality increased with the increasing dose rate, total mortality was not obtained even at the highest rate of DE. $F_1$ production decreased with the increasing dose rates for both r.h. conditions. Containment of population was achieved at 1.50 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE for 7 days of exposure period and at 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE for 14 and 21 days of exposure periods. For each exposure intervals, $F_1$ production of *R. dominica* decreased with the increasing dose rates of DE. Mortality regardless of exposure interval was 59% at 1.50 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE and 75% at 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE.

Keywords: Insecto®; *Rhyzopertha dominica*; $F_1$ adult production; Mortality

# Diyatom Toprağının *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Coleoptera: Bostrychidae)'nın Ölüm ve Yavru Verimi Üzerine Etkileri

**ÖZET**

Bu araştırmada diyatom toprağı olarak Insecto®'nun *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.)'nın ergin evresine öldürücü etkisi %40 ve %55 oranlı nem koşullarında 7, 14 ve 21 günlük üç farklı uygulama süresinde etkinliği belirlenmiştir.

Ergin böcekler içerisinde 0.25, 0.50, 1.00, 1.50 ve 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ dozda Insecto® karıştırılmış 40 g yumuşak kışlık buğday bulunan kaplara bırakılmıştır. Üç farklı uygulama süresinde belirlenen ölümler (0.25 ve 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$'daki hariç) kontrol grubunda belirlenen ölüm düzeyinden önemli düzeyde farklı bulunmuştur. Her bir uygulama süresi sonunda, ölü ve canlı böcekler sayılmış ve kaptan uzaklaştırılmış; ardından buğday tekrar kaba alınarak deneme süresince tutulduğu nem kabinine alınmış ve burada F$_1$ erginleri çıkıncaya kadar 8 hafta tutulmuştur. F$_1$ verimi uygulanan tüm dozlarda kontroldekinden önemli düzeyde farklı bulunmuştur. Doz dikkate alınmaksızın ölümler 7, 14 ve 21 günlük uygulamada %27.67– 33.40 arasında olmuştur. Ölümler artan doz oranı ile birlikte artmış olmasına rağmen, mutlak ölüm en yüksek dozda da gerçekleşmemiştir. F$_1$ verimi her iki nem koşulunda da artan doz ile birlikte azalmıştır. Özet olarak, Insecto® uygulaması F$_1$ veriminde düşüşe neden olmuş ve popülasyon 7 günlük uygulamada 1.50 g kg$^{-1}$ ve 14 ve 21 günlük uygulamada ise 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ diyatom toprağı dozunda sabit düzeyde kalmıştır. Süre dikkate alınmaksızın ölümler 1.50 g kg$^{-1}$ dozunda %59 ve 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ dozunda ise %75 düzeyinde gerçekleşmiştir.

Anahtar sözcükler: Insecto®; *Rhyzopertha dominica*; F$_1$ ergin üretimi; Ölüm

## 1. Introduction

Long-term storage of grains inevitably necessitates taking action against pests. Although large scale storage efforts are mainly concentrated on the use of fumigants due to economic and practicability reasons, environmental considerations have limited the use of common fumigants. Methyl bromide, for example, has been banned by Montreal Protocol worldwide due to its ozone depleting properties, while many pests have already developed phosphine-resistant strains due to improper fumigations (Zettler & Arthur 2000). Additionally, sulphuryl fluoride is now being considered as a gas to the greenhouse effect and global warming (Mühle et al 2009). Moreover, few residual insecticides are currently registered for use in grain storage; however, they are also subject to health, environmental, and pest resistance considerations (Subramanyam & Hagstrum 1995).

Non-chemical alternatives, which are effective, environmentally sound, economically feasible, and user friendly, have gained an important position in the protection of stored grains. Diatomaceous earth (DE) that causes insects to die from dehydration meets all those criteria and can be incorporated in pest control programs (Subramanyam & Roesli 2000). It is organic in origin, and does not pose any environmental and/or health risk, having a low mammalian toxicity (e.g., DE rat oral LD$_{50}$, > 5000 mg per kg of body weight (Subramanyam & Roesli 2000). DEs provide stable and long-term grain protection without any toxic residue, and their potential in the control of stored grain pests has received much research attention (e.g., Banks & Fields 1995; Arthur 1996; 2000; 2002; 2004; Arthur & Throne 2003; Fields & Korunic 2000; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Athanassiou et al 2003). Studies on DE are mainly focused on the effectiveness against pest species, application rate and exposure periods at different temperature and relative humidity (r.h.) levels.

The lesser grain borer, *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.), is a serious pest of stored grain worldwide (Potter 1935) and has been present in Turkey since 1957 (Özer 1957). Several reports showed that the lesser grain borer is one of the most difficult stored product insects to control using DE (Quarles 1992; Fields & Korunic 2000; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Stathers et al 2002a,b). There has been comparatively little work done on mortality of insects and suppression of progeny production based on wide range of Insecto® concentrations. This study aimed to test the effectiveness of Insecto®, which is a commercially available DE formulation, on adults and F$_1$ adult production of *R. dominica* (F.) in a wide range of dosages at different exposure intervals and r.h. conditions.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Insects

*R. dominica* adults were reared on a mixture of broken wheat and 5% yeast (by weight) at 25 ± 1°C and 60 ± 5% r.h. Bioassays were conducted

using 1- to 2-week-old, unsexed adults. The insects were from a culture maintained in the laboratory for at least five years, with no history of exposure to insecticides.

## 2.2. Experimental protocol

Exposure studies were conducted at 40 and 55% r.h. and 0.00 (control), 0.25, 0.50, 1.00, 1.50 and 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ of Insecto$^®$ formulation of DE (Natural Insecto Products, Inc., CA, USA). Humidity chambers were created by pouring 750 ml of saturated $K_2CO_3$ or NaBr solutions into two sets of plastic boxes (26 cm × 36.5 cm × 15 cm) having waffle-type grids cut to fit the bottom (Arthur 2000). These solutions maintained humidity at approximately 40 and 55%, respectively (Greenspan 1977). Humidity and temperature during the experiment were monitored using HOBO ProTemp/RH data logger (Onset Computer Corporation, MA, USA) during the experiment. Each humidity chamber was kept at 25 ± 1$^o$C.

Clean wheat of known origin was used in the tests. The moisture content as determined by a Dickey–John moisture meter (Dickey-John Multigrain CAC II, Dickey-John Co, KS, USA) of the wheat was approximately 11.8% (11.6-12.0%). Before use in experiments, the wheat was stored for 3 days at -18$^o$C to kill any residual insect infestation and then transferred to each humidity chamber and equilibrated to test conditions for 2 weeks.

The experimental unit consisted of 40 g of soft white winter wheat weighed into a cylindrical plastic vial (6 by 5 cm) with perforated lids covered with US standard sieves mesh #120. The diameter of the lid perforation was 1.5 cm. The appropriate amount of DE was added to 600 g wheat in 1 l glass jars for each humidity and dose rate. Jars were tightly closed with the lids and thoroughly shaken for 5 min to ensure even distribution. Jars were left for 10 min to allow dust settled before dividing into test vials. Bioassays were conducted at each exposure period (7, 14, and 21 days) and humidity combinations. Ten (1-2 wk old) adults were placed in each vial containing wheat treated with

each dose rate. After adult introduction, vials were closed with lids and then, test vials were placed in temperature controlled humidity chambers. There were 5 replicates (min.) at each exposure period and control (75 vials for treatment and 15 vials for control at each humidity level). After each exposure interval, dead and live individuals were counted and removed, and then the test vial containing wheat was returned to the corresponding humidity chamber for eight weeks till the emergence of $F_1$ adults. Live and dead $F_1$ individuals were counted at the end of each experiment.

## 2.3. Data analysis

Mean ± SE mortality of adults in the control treatment was found between 0.0 ± 0.0 and 2.0 ± 2.0%. Therefore, dose - mortality data were not corrected for control mortality. Prior to the statistical analysis, an arcsin transformation of the mortality data as well as a square root transformation of the $F_1$ adult production data was performed to standardize the data. The ANOVA procedure of the SAS (SAS Institute 1987) was used to determine the significance of exposure interval, r.h., and dose rate of DE on the adult mortality and the number of $F_1$ adults. The Bonferroni Simultaneous test was used to determine significant differences between control and treatments. Duncan's multiple range tests at $P<0.05$ was used to determine statistical differences among treatments (Sokal & Rohlf 1995). The lethal dose for 50% of the population ($LD_{50}$) was calculated using probit analysis (LeOra Software 2003).

## 3. Results

GLM statistical analysis showed that mortality and $F_1$ adult production at five dose rates of DE differed from control group; thus, the main effect of dosages on mortality ($F = 165.97$; $df = 5, 195$; $P<0.001$) and $F_1$ production ($F = 257.12$; $df = 5, 195$; $P<0.001$) were significant. Bonferroni Simultaneous test indicated that mortality at all dose rates except 0.25 and 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$ were significantly different than that of control Table 1. $F_1$ production at all dose rates was significantly different than that of control (Table 1).

**Table 1-Bonferroni Simultaneous Tests results for the comparison of mortality and $F_1$ adult production of *Rhyzopertha dominica* (control vs dose rate of DE)(P<0.05)**

*Çizelge 1-Rhyzopertha dominica'da belirlenen ölümler ve $F_1$ ergin veriminin Benforoni Simultaneous Testi ile kıyaslaması (diyatom toprağının dozlarına karşı kontrol) (P<0.05)*

| | Mortality | $F_1$ |
|---|---|---|
| Dose rate, g kg$^{-1}$ | Adjusted *P*-Value | Adjusted *P*-Value |
| 0.25 | 1.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 0.50 | 0.2229 | 0.0000 |
| 1.00 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 1.50 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 2.00 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |

The ANOVA analysis for mortality revealed significant differences at each exposure interval ($F = 10.66$; $df = 2$, 165; $P < 0.001$) and dose rate ($F = 171.35$; $df = 5$, 165; $P < 0.001$), but not for humidity ($F = 0.22$; $df = 1$, 165) and interactions (Table 2). Mortality obtained after 7, 14 and 21 days of exposures were 27.67±4.03-33.40±4.36% with the highest mortality obtained after 21 days of exposure (Figure 1). According to dose rate analysis, total mortality was low at 0.00, 0.25 and 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$ without any significant differences among groups (Figure 2). Despite the fact that mortality increased with dose rate, only 75% mortality was obtained even at the highest dose of DE (Figure 2). Calculated LD$_{50}$ values for 7, 14 and 21 days exposure intervals at both humidity levels were 0.93 - 1.59 g kg$^{-1}$ (Table 3).

For $F_1$ adult production of *R. dominica*, the ANOVA analysis showed significant differences

for main effect of humidity ($F = 32.65$; $df = 1$, 165; $P<0.001$), exposure interval ($F = 68.64$; $df = 2$, 165; $P<0.001$) and dose rate ($F = 465.47$; $df = 5$, 165; $P<0.001$) (Table 2). All associated interactions except exposure interval × dose rate ($F = 5.75$; $df = 10$, 165; $P<0.001$) (Table 2) were not significant. Relative humidity level caused significant differences in the number of $F_1$ adults on wheat treated with DE (Figure 3).

According to exposure interval × dose rate interaction, $F_1$ adult production of *R. dominica* was highest at 0.00 g kg$^{-1}$ and decreased with increasing dose rates at all exposure interval (Table 4). However, no significant differences were found in $F_1$ adult production between 1.50 and 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ dose rate for each exposure interval. Although $F_1$ production at 0.25 g kg$^{-1}$ was significantly lower than that of control for each exposure interval, containment of population were obtained at 1.50 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE for 7 days of exposure period and at 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$ of DE for 14 and 21 days exposure.
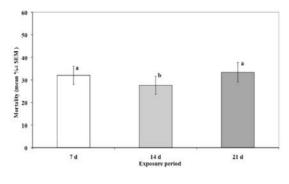
## 4. Discussion

Current study showed that adult mortality of *R. dominica* is dose-dependent, a common phenomenon for DE applications (Fields & Korunic 2000; Athanassiou et al 2003; Stathers et al 2002b, 2004; Vayias & Athanassiou 2004; Ferizli & Beris 2005). Adult mortality at 0.25 and 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$ were 2 and 5%, respectively, while it was 42.67% at 1.00 g kg$^{-1}$. The highest mortality (75.00±3.09) was obtained at 2.00 g kg$^{-1}$.

**Table 2-ANOVA parameters for main effects and interactions for mortality and $F_1$ adults production of *Rhyzopertha dominica* (total $df = 194$)**

*Çizelge 2-Rhyzopertha dominica'da belirlenen ölümler ve $F_1$ ergin adedine ilişkin varyans analiz sonuçları (total df=194)*

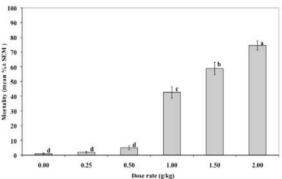| | | Mortality | | $F_1$ | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Source | df | F | P | F | P |
| Humidity (r.h.) | 1 | 0.22 | 0.641 | 32.65 | 0.000 |
| Exposure interval | 2 | 10.66 | 0.000 | 68.64 | 0.000 |
| Dose rate | 5 | 171.35 | 0.000 | 465.47 | 0.000 |
| r.h.× exposure interval | 2 | 0.32 | 0.726 | 1.56 | 0.213 |
| r.h. × dose rate | 5 | 0.86 | 0.512 | 1.37 | 0.238 |
| Exposure interval× dose rate | 10 | 1.18 | 0.306 | 5.75 | 0.000 |
| r.h. ×exposure interval× dose rate | 10 | 0.45 | 0.920 | 0.45 | 0.917 |
| Error | 165 | | | | |

**Figure 1-Mortality (mean % ± SEM) of**
***Rhyzopertha dominica* adults after 7, 14 and 21 d**
**of exposure (means followed by the same letter are**
**not significantly different; *P*>0.05; Duncan's**
**multiple range test)**
*Şekil 1-Rhyzopertha dominica erginlerinde 7, 14 ve*
*21 günlük uygulama sonunda belirlenen ölümler*
*(farklı uygulama sürelerinde aynı harfi taşıyan*
*ortalamalar birbirinden önemli düzeyde farklı*
*bulunmamıştır; P>0.05; Duncan'ın multiple range*
*testi).*

**Figure 2-Mortality (mean % ± SEM) of**
***Rhyzopertha dominica* adults on treated wheat with**
**six different dose rates of DE (means followed by**
**the same letter are not significantly different;**
***P*>0.05; Duncan's multiple range test)**
*Şekil 2-Altı farklı dozda diyatom toprağı karıştırılmış*
*buğdayda Rhyzopertha dominica erginlerinde*
*belirlenen ölümler (farklı dozlarda aynı harfi taşıyan*
*ortalamalar birbirinden önemli düzeyde farklı*
*bulunmamıştır; P>0.05; Duncan'ın multiple range*
*testi)*

**Table 3-Calculated LD$_{50}$ (g kg$^{-1}$) values of *Rhyzopertha dominica* on treated wheat with six different**
**dose rates of Insecto® after 7, 14 and 21 d of exposure at 25°C**
*Çizelge 3-Diyatom toprağının altı farklı dozu ile muamele edilmiş buğdayda 25°C sıcaklıkta 7, 14 ve 21*
*günlük uygulama sonunda Rhyzopertha dominica'da hesaplanan LD$_{50}$ (g kg$^{-1}$)*

| Humidity, % r.h. | Exposure, day | LD$_{50}$ FL* | Slope | Slope SE | $\chi^2$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | 1.43 (1.19-1.74)a** | 3.60 | 0.44 | 94.9 |
| 40 | 14 | 1.31 (1.16-1.48)ab | 4.52 | 0.61 | 25.4 |
| | 21 | 1.02 (0.90-1.16)b | 3.93 | 0.43 | 23.9 |
| | 7 | 1.59 (1.28-2.20)a | 2.67 | 0.39 | 37.1 |
| 55 | 14 | 1.46 (1.21-1.84)a | 2.98 | 0.40 | 32.3 |
| | 21 | 0.93 (0.81-1.06)b | 3.49 | 0.38 | 23.4 |

* Fiducial limits were calculated at *P* ≤0.05 level

** Fiducial limits overlapping comparison

In the control groups, mortality was around 1% as reported by Arthur (2004). Ferizli & Beris (2005) found that Protect-It® produced 3.33 and 20.33% mortality at 0.25 and 0.50 g kg$^{-1}$, respectively; however, efficacy greatly increased at 1.00 g kg$^{-1}$, reaching a mortality value of 77.33%. Similarly, a rate of 1.00 g kg$^{-1}$ of Dryacide produced 100% mortality in *R. dominica* (Desmarchelier and Dines, 1987) as well as in *S. oryzae* (McLaughlin,

1994). Increasing the exposure time results in a higher mortality; thus, mortality in *R. dominica* was 72% at 0.3 g kg$^{-1}$ Protect-It® of wheat, after 5 days of exposure and increased to 90% after 14 days of exposure (Fields & Korunic 2000). In the present study, 100% mortality was not obtained even at the highest dose rate (2.00 g kg$^{-1}$). This is in accordance with the literature, which implies a higher tolerance of *R. dominica* and other
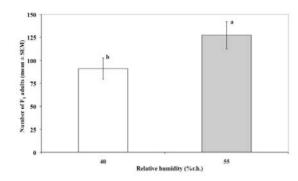
**Figure 3-Number of $F_1$ adults (mean) of *Rhyzopertha dominica* on treated wheat at 25°C; 40% and 55% r.h. (means followed by the same letter are not significantly different; *P*>0.05; Duncan's multiple range test)**

*Şekil 3. Diyatom toprağı ilave edilmiş buğdayda 25°C ortam sıcaklığında %40 ve %55 orantılı nem koşullarında gelişen Rhyzopertha dominica'nın ergin $F_1$'leri*

bostrichids to DE applications than other stored product pest species (Desmarchelier & Dines 1987; Aldryhim 1993; Fields & Korunic 2000; Stathers et al 2002a,b; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Arthur 2002; 2004).

In this study, no significant difference was found between adult mortalities obtained at the r.h. levels of 40 and 55%. Similarly, Ferizli & Beris (2005) did not find any significant mortality difference in *R. dominica* adults treated with diatomaceous earth (Protect-It[®]) at 40-55% r.h. This could be due to the relatively high moisture content of test wheat (11.6 - 12.0%), which might have eliminated the effects of r.h. values on adult mortality. Probit analysis also showed that $LD_{50}$ values were not significantly different (Table 3). There are also contrary results on DE applications implying that reduced mortality under increased r.h. levels can be obtained (Aldryhim 1993; Arthur 2000; 2002; 2004; Desmarchelier & Dines 1987; Field & Korunic 2000; Vayias & Athanassiou 2004; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Stathers et al 2004). Thus, increase in r.h. from 40 to 60% yielded a three-fold increase in $LD_{50}$ for *Tribolium confusum* and *S. oryzae* in Dryacide treated wheat (Aldryhim 1990).

An increase in exposure period to commercial inert DE formulations was shown to increase mortality of stored products beetles (Arthur 2000; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Athanassiou et al 2003; Vayias & Athanassiou 2004). However, in this research, we did not observe any increase in mortality at increased exposure periods to DE. Similarly, Ferizli & Beris (2005) found that the mortality of *R. dominica* was not increased with increasing exposure period. Thus, probit analysis estimating the $LD_{50}$ levels for 7, 14 and 21 days exposures at both humidity levels also support this result (Table 3). In contrast to our results, Fields et al (2003) found that $LD_{50}$ values of Protect-It[®] for *Tribolium castaneum* adults at 7 and 14 d exposure were 638 and 462 ppm, respectively. Arthur (2002) stated that mortality of *S. oryzae* adults exposed to wheat treated with Protect-It[®] at 57% rh increased when exposure interval and concentration increased. Thus, adult mortality after 7, 14 and 21 days at 71 ppm DE was reported as 50.0, 100.0 and 100.0% (Arthur 2002). The difference between the efficacy in the present work and those in the literature can be attributed to higher tolerance of *R. dominica* to DE in comparison to other stored-grain beetles (Fields & Korunic 2000; Subramanyam & Roesli 2000). Arthur (2002) also reported that higher application rates or longer exposure intervals were necessary for control of *R. dominica*. Because, *R. dominica* adults treated with DE bored into kernels, stayed inside and avoided from continuous contact with the dust. Besides the repellency effect (White et al 1966; Mohan & Fields 2002), DE also reduces the locomotion ability of *R. dominica* adults (Vardeman et al 2007).

In this study, $F_1$ adult production was lower at 40% r.h. than that produced at 55% r.h. Similarly, Stathers et al (2004) reported reduced progeny production for various stored product pests treated with Protect-It[®] at two dose rates (0.1 and 0.15 g kg[-1]). They stated that progeny production of *Prostephanus truncatus* was lower at 50% r.h. than at 60% r.h. Progeny production at 0.1 g kg[-1] dose rate of Protect-It[®] at 50% r.h. was close to

**Table 4-Number of F₁ adults (mean ± SE) of *Rhyzopertha dominica* on treated wheat with six different dose rates of Insecto® after 7, 14 and 21 days of exposure at 25°C**
*Çizelge 4-Diyatom toprağının altı farklı dozu ile muamele edilmiş buğdayda 25°C sıcaklıkta 7, 14 ve 21 günlük uygulama sonunda Rhyzopertha dominica'da gelişen F₁ erginleri*

| Dose rate, g kg⁻¹ | Exposure interval, day | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| 0.00 | 217.10 ± 21.12c*A** | 277.30 ± 26.12bA | 387.70 ± 28.32aA |
| 0.25 | 105.00 ± 9.84cB | 156.50 ± 11.32bB | 219.90 ± 18.57aB |
| 0.50 | 60.20 ± 8.22cC | 88.40 ± 10.65bC | 145.60 ± 13.09aC |
| 1.00 | 13.30 ± 2.16bD | 33.30 ± 8.79aD | 34.20 ± 6.53aD |
| 1.50 | 5.20 ± 1.24bE | 12.10 ± 3.49aE | 14.70 ± 2.83aE |
| 2.00 | 2.13 ± 0.71bE | 9.70 ± 2.62aE | 4.60 ± 1.13bE |

\* Means of number of F₁ adults (row, lower case letters) at each exposure intervals for each dose rate followed by the same letter are not significantly different (*P*<0.05; Duncan's multiple range test)

\*\* Means of number of F₁ adults (columns, upper case letters) at each dose rate for each exposure intervals followed by the same letter are not significantly different (*P*<0.05; Duncan's multiple range test)

that of control group; at the higher dose rate of DE progeny production was reduced.

In our experiments, the effects of DE on suppression of F₁ adults were found to be dose dependant. Thus, at 1.50 g kg⁻¹ of DE, population containment was obtained for 7 days of exposure; while it inexplicably took 14 - 21 days to reach the containment at 2.00 g kg⁻¹. However, even at the highest dose rate of DE, complete suppression of F₁ adults failed. By contrast, there are many studies reporting the success of DE suppressing progeny production in *R. dominica*. In similar to our results, Desmarchelier & Dines (1987) reported that at least 1.0 g/kg rate of Dryacide in wheat at 28 days of exposure was necessary for the complete control of adults and their progeny of *R. dominica*; while 0.5 g kg⁻¹ of Dryacide was sufficient for containment of the adult population only. In other pest species such as *Tribolium castaneum*, *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* and *Plodia interpunctella*, adult emergence in maize treated with Insecto® (DE) at a rate of 1 g kg⁻¹ was decreased by 98-100% (Subramanyam et al 1998). Similarly, a minimum of 0.5 g kg⁻¹ Dryacide was found to be sufficient for progeny suppression of *R. dominica* (Aldryhim 1993). According to Ferizli & Beris (2005) progeny production of *R. dominica* decreased with the increased rate of DE (Protect-It®) and *R. dominica* population was suppressed at 1.0 g kg⁻¹ DE.

The type of formulation is an important factor on the insecticidal action of DE (Subramanyam & Roesli 2000; Kavallieratos et al 2005; Vayias et al 2006); thus, it affects the progeny production of pests. Insecto® used in our tests contains food additive compounds, but Protect-It® contains silica aerogel. Consequently, all additives used in DE formulation differentiate the insecticidal effect of a given DE (Athanassiou et al 2008).

Subramanyam & Roesli (2000) reported that suppression of population growth of pests for long-term protection of grain is more important than total insect mortality. Adult progeny production of *Cryptolestes ferrugineus*, *C. pusillus,* and *O. mercator* was inhibited in corn treated with 0.5 g kg⁻¹ of Insecto®. However, reduction in adult progeny of *P. truncatus*, *S. oryzae*, and *R. dominica* at 1.5 g kg⁻¹ was 50-85%. Thus, adults of those insects that are relatively tolerant to Insecto® have enough time to mate and lay eggs in crops treated with DE. Since slow mode of action of DE allows adults oviposit on rice kernels before they die (Subramanyam & Roesli 2000). McLaughlin (1994) reported that Dryacide at 1 g kg⁻¹ dose rate caused 100% mortality and 77% reduction in adult progeny of *S. oryzae*, suggesting adult emergence could not be completely inhibited at a rate of 1 g kg⁻¹ of Dryacide. As reported by Subramanyam & Roesli (2000) and Athanassiou et al (2003), prevention

of adult emergence is more important than killing the insects. Reduction of $F_1$ adults was also noted by Arthur (2002), who exposed 10 adult rice weevils for 1 week to wheat treated with 300 ppm Protect-It[®] at 27°C. In comparison with control, in which 56-212 $F_1$ adults emerged, he obtained 2, 32 and 107 $F_1$ adults at the r.h. levels of 40, 55 and 75%, respectively. Increase in r.h. increased progeny production. Arthur & Throne (2003) came to a similar conclusion when Protect-It[®] applied at a rate of 0.3 g kg$^{-1}$ rice failed to the population suppression of *Sitophilus oryzae* (L.) though it caused a complete adult mortality after 3 weeks of exposure.

DE mixed with grain can adversely affect physical and mechanical properties of a bulk commodity such as reduced flowability, bulk density, visible residues, and dust production during handling (Korunic et al 1998). The negative effects can be avoided by lowering the concentrations of DE to low but still effective levels (Subramanyam & Roesli 2000).

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, Insecto® will cause $F_1$ and following generations to diminish as the adults of each generation die before reproducing normally. In our tests with Insecto® at 2 g kg$^{-1}$, irritant effects of DE causing adults to stay inside the kernels resulted with low level of $F_1$ production. However, Insecto® failed to cause total adult mortality even at a dose of 2 g kg$^{-1}$. In field application, high DE rates are generally not used due to grain quality and handling problems, however these high rates are needed if DEs are going to effectively control serious storage pests, particularly bostrichids.

## Acknowledgments

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