**Field performance of selected varieties of paddy against brown plant hopper (*N. lugens*) at Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh**

**Abstract**

Eighteen varieties of paddy (*Oryza sativa* L.) were screened under field condition during Kharif 2022 & 2023, to evaluate their performance against BPH. The trial was laid out in randomized block design with three replications, at RNTU ARC farm, Raisen. Susceptible and resistant check varieties were TN-1 and PTB-33, respectively. The population of *Nilaparvata lugens*, was recorded throughout the crop period at 10 days intervals. MTU 1060 recorded the lowest brown planthopper density, indicating it was the least preferred by the pest. Close behind were the genotypes PTB-33 and Poornima, which had similarly low populations of 1.16 and 1.47 hoppers per plant, respectively. Statistical analysis showed that the differences in pest density among MTU 1060, PTB-33, and Poornima were not significant, indicating that these three genotypes exhibited similar levels of resistance to brown planthopper infestation.

Key words- paddy, brown plant hopper, genotype and *Nilaparvata lugens*

**Introduction**

The Poaceae or Gramineae families include the paddy plant (Oryza sativa L.). It is the most widely farmed crop in the world, providing the main source of nutrition for more than 60% of the world's population. The anticipated total paddy production for 2022–2023 is 1308.37 lakh tons, which is a record. Compared to last year, it is 13.65 lakh tonnes more. sustenance for almost 60% of the global populace. Numerous biotic and abiotic elements affect rice crops. Insect fauna is a major contributor to the decline in productivity among the biotic components. An estimated 52% of the world's rice crop is lost each year as a result of biotic causes, with insect pest fauna attacks accounting for 21% of this loss. [10]. Major insect pest fauna of rice cover the yellow stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas* Wlk), brown planthopper (*Nilaparvata lugens* Stal.), white backed planthopper (Sogatella furcifera Horvath), green leafhopper (*Nephotettix virescens* Distant), gundhi bug (Leptocorisa acuta Thumb), rice hispa (Dicladispa armigera Oliv), gall midge (Orseolia oryzae Wood Mason), leaf folder, (Cnaphalocrocis medinalis Gueni), rice horned caterpillar (*Melanitis leda ismena* Cramer), armyworm (*Mythimna seprata*), paddy skipper (*Pelopidas mathias* Fabricius) & case worm Nymphula depunctalis (Guenee) causing frequent or sporadic damage to the crop [Anonymous 1996]. Among all insect pest fauna, the hopper complex is one of the most consumptive pest complexes of rice causing enormous yield losses every year throughout the rice grown areas of Asia (Park D.S. 2008). In Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh area the brown planthopper (*N. lugens*) assumed greater importance due to it’s sever outbreak in 1975 and consequent yield losses reported to the extent of 34.3% (Gangrade G.A. 1978). The hopper complex causes direct harm as sucking pest and functions as vector for various viral illnesses, causing considerable production losses to sensitive types every year (Satpathi 2012). In the rice ecosystem, a high population of hopper complex is also favoured by many suggested agronomical techniques, such as close plant spacing and excessive fertilizer application. Numerous issues, including pest resurgence, insecticide resistance, loss of natural enemies, emergence of novel biotypes, pesticide residues in grains, etc., have arisen as a result of attempts to control this pest chemically. To find resistant or tolerant rice genotypes and varieties as a tool for IPM programs, field screening was done.

**Material and Methods**

Screening trials of paddy varieties against brown plant hopper (*N. lugens*) were conducted under field conditions at Agriculture Research Farm, Rabindranath Tagore University, Raisen (M.P.), during the years 2022 and 2023 (Kharif). The experimental material consisted of eighteen paddy varieties (Table 1), including TN-1 and PTB-33 as standard susceptible and resistant checks, respectively. All varieties were collected from the different All India Coordinated Research Project on Paddy. A nursery of these varieties was prepared as per the recommended practices. Thirty-day-old healthy seedlings were transplanted in the field. Late transplanting was done to ensure maximum hopper infestation. The seedlings were transplanted in a randomized block design with three replications to evaluate them against brown plant hoppers. A single seedling was transplanted per hill. All the recommended agronomical practices were adopted during crop cultivation. Transplanting was done at a spacing of 15×15 cm to enhance the multiplication of sucking pests as proposed by Satpati et al. (2012).

Each plot contained 24 rows of test varieties, and each row was 2.10 m long with a total of 12 plants. 288 plants were contained in each plot. The susceptible check TN-1 plot and the resistant check variety PTB-33 were transplanted in a randomized manner. Fertilizers (N:P:K) were applied @ 100:50:30 kg/ha. No pesticide application was done against insect pests in the experiment area. The population density of brown plant hoppers was recorded at 10-day intervals, starting with 10-day-old transplanted paddy. The sample unit was an individual plant, and 10 randomly selected plants were observed in every plot. Population data on insect pests were subjected to analysis of variance at the 5% level of significance.

**Statistical analysis**

The population data of hopper complex on different varieties & genotypes were subjected to the statistical analysis of variance at 5% level of significant.

**Result and Discussion**

Eighteen genotypes were sown in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with 3 replications for evaluation against sucking insect pests’ complex. Observations on population density of sucking pests were recorded at 10 days intervals, starting with 10 days old transplanted rice. Sample unit was individual plant and 10 randomly selected plants were observed in every plot. Total numbers of white ears were also recorded at the dough stage of the crop. Incidence of insect pests on genotypes during *Kharif* 2022 and 2023 was studies. The seasonal average population of *Nilaparvata lugens*, commonly known as the brown planthopper, varied significantly across different paddy genotypes. The population density of brown planthoppers per plant ranged from a high of 20.71 hoppers on the TN-1 genotype to a low of 1.08 hoppers on the MTU 1060 genotype. Among the tested paddy genotypes, MTU 1060 recorded the lowest brown planthopper density, indicating it was the least preferred by the pest. Close behind were the genotypes PTB-33 and Poornima, which had similarly low populations of 1.16 and 1.47 hoppers per plant, respectively. Statistical analysis showed that the differences in pest density among MTU 1060, PTB-33, and Poornima were not significant, indicating that these three genotypes exhibited similar levels of resistance to brown planthopper infestation. Murty et al. (1988) also screened traditional paddy cultivars for resistance to brown planthopper in Madhya Pradesh, in 1987 and reported cultivars namely Anjania, Badidhan, Badshah Bhog, Bangoli 3, Budiya Bomko, Bansbhira, Barhi, Barik safed, Basangi, Lal Basant, Bataru, Benwar, Bewara, Baspatri and Chapdo to be resistant to BPH. In present tests the cultivar Badshah Bhog was also evaluated, however, its performance was not at par with the least susceptible entries. Chen *et al*. (1991) investigated several rice varieties in China for their resistance to *Nilaparvata lugens*. They reported good resistance in Indica strain IR 36. In present trials the IR 36 was also evaluated but its performance was not equivalent to the least preferred entries. Genotype Mahamaya was reported to be least susceptible in trials conducted by Oudhia et al. (1999) which do not match with the present rating, probably due to the fact that an altogether different range of entries has been evaluated that show promise as on date. Genotype Kranti suffered from moderate population of brown planthopper which is in conformity to the findings of Bhogadhi et al. (2015) who also reported the genotype to be moderately resistant. The resistant and susceptible checks used in the present experiment have been much studied earlier by several scientists. Genotype TN-1 has been reported to be susceptible by Chen et al. (1991), Nanda et al. (1999), Alice and Sujatha (2001) and Alagar et al. (2007). Workers like Bhattacharya et al. (1983), Kushwah et al. (1986), Reddy and Mishra (1995b), Suresh et al. (1999), Mandloi et. al. (2018) , Mai et al. (2017) etc have conducted field screening trials against rice sucking insect pests with different plant material which is not directly comparable to the present findings.

Table 1: Seasonal mean population density/plant of *Nilaparvata lugens* on different varieties of paddy

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Genotype code | Genotypes |  |  |
| Year 2022 | Year 2023 |
| G1 | Kalinga | 4.93 (2.44) | 5.08 (2.46) |
| G2 | Vandana | 5.53 (2.55) | 5.81 (2.61) |
| G3 | Aditya  | 12.77 (3.71) | 12.84 (3.72) |
| G4 | MTU1060 | 1.08 (1.44) | 1.01 (1.42) |
| G5 | Kranti | 4.05 (2.25) | 3.85 (2.20) |
| G6 | PR-103 | 12.09 (3.61) | 12.09 (3.61) |
| G7 | Poornima | 1.47 (1.57) | 1.40 (1.55) |
| G8 | Danteshwari | 14.73 (3.97) | 14.39 (3.92) |
| G9 | Indira Barani Dhan 1 | 11.41 (3.52) | 12.40 (3.66) |
| G10 | Pusa 1121 (PS-4) | 8.47 (3.08) | 8.67 (3.11) |
| G11 | Shymla | 6.16 (2.68) | 6.32 (2.70) |
| G12 | Kali Muchh | 5.54 (2.56) | 5.66 (2.58) |
| G13 | PB-1 | 16.89 (4.23) | 17.30 (4.28) |
| G14 | IR 36 | 8.49 (3.08) | 8.49 (3.08) |
| G15 | Karma Masuri | 17.00 (4.24) | 16.20 (4.15) |
| G16 | Mahamaya | 6.03 (2.65) | 6.33 (2.71) |
| G17 | TN-1 (Susceptible check)  | 20.71 (4.65) | 23.87 (4.99) |
| G18 | PTB-33 (Resistant check) | 1.16 (1.47) | 1.12 (1.46) |
|  | SEm± | 0.07 | 0.06 |
|  | CD (5%) | 0.20 | 0.18 |

**Conclusion**: This indicates a consistent susceptibility, as evidenced by the large pest population. In contrast, Genotype G18 (PTB-33), designated as the resistant check, showed the lowest pest populations, with values of 1.16 and 1.12 across the two years, underscoring its effectiveness in repelling or resisting the brown planthopper. Notably, other genotypes also demonstrated varying levels of pest resistance. For instance, G4(MTU1060) and G7 (Poornima) reported low pest populations, suggesting moderate resistance, while genotypes like G13 (PB-1) and G15 (Karma Masuri) showed higher susceptibility with populations nearing those of the susceptible check. G10 (Pusa 1121) and G14 (IR 36) exhibited moderate susceptibility with moderate brown planthopper populations across both years.These findings highlight genetic variability in resistance, with some genotypes showing consistent performance across seasons. The inclusion of standard checks, TN-1 and PTB-33, helped establish baseline susceptibility and resistance, respectively, for comparison across genotypes.

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