اثر حشره کشی فرمولاسیون ®Sayan خاک دیاتومه ایران جهت کنترل شپشه اَرد Tribolium confusum

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The insecticidal effect of Sayan[®], an Iranian diatomaceous earth formulation, against *Tribolium* confusum

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One of the most promising alternatives to synthetic insecticides for the control of stored product pests is diatomaceous earth (DE). DEs have natural origins and are composed of fossilized skeletons of diatoms. The particles of DE absorb insect's cuticle wax, resulting in water loss and death through desiccation. Laboratory studies were performed to evaluate the insecticidal effects of DE on adults of confused flour beetle, Tribolium confusum du Val (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae), at 27 ± 1° C and $55 \pm 5^{\circ}$ RH in dark. Experiments were carried out with 6 concentrations (0 or control, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2 µg) of Sayan®, a diatomaceous earth formulation, mixed with 1kg of wheat in a completely randomized design. To do the experiments, ten 5-6-day-old T. confusum adults were put on 50 g of Sayan®-treated wheat in plastic containers ($10 \times 5 \times 4$ cm). The beetle mortality was recorded after 1, 2, 3, 7 and 14 days. The experiments were replicated eight times. In addition, to assess progeny production of T. confusum another experiment was undertaken with the mentioned concentration and 8 replications. To do this, ten 5-6-day-old T. confusum adults were introduced into an oviposition container $(10 \times 5 \times 4 \text{ cm})$ containing 50 g of Sayan®-treated wheat. The beetles were removed from the containers after one week. When the first adult emerged, all progenies were then recorded during a ten-day period. The results showed that the concentrations 1.5 and $2 \mu g$ of Sayan® had acceptable effects on T. confusum mortality (over 90 percent) after 7 days. The mortality was increased along with increase in Sayan® dose. After 7 days, the LC₅₀ of Sayan® for \overline{T} . confusum adults was estimated to be 7.17×10^{-7} µg per kg of wheat. There was significant difference between Sayan®-treated and untreated wheat for progeny production, as DE killed the newly emerged beetles. As a result, Sayan® can be used to protect grains against T. confusum adults.